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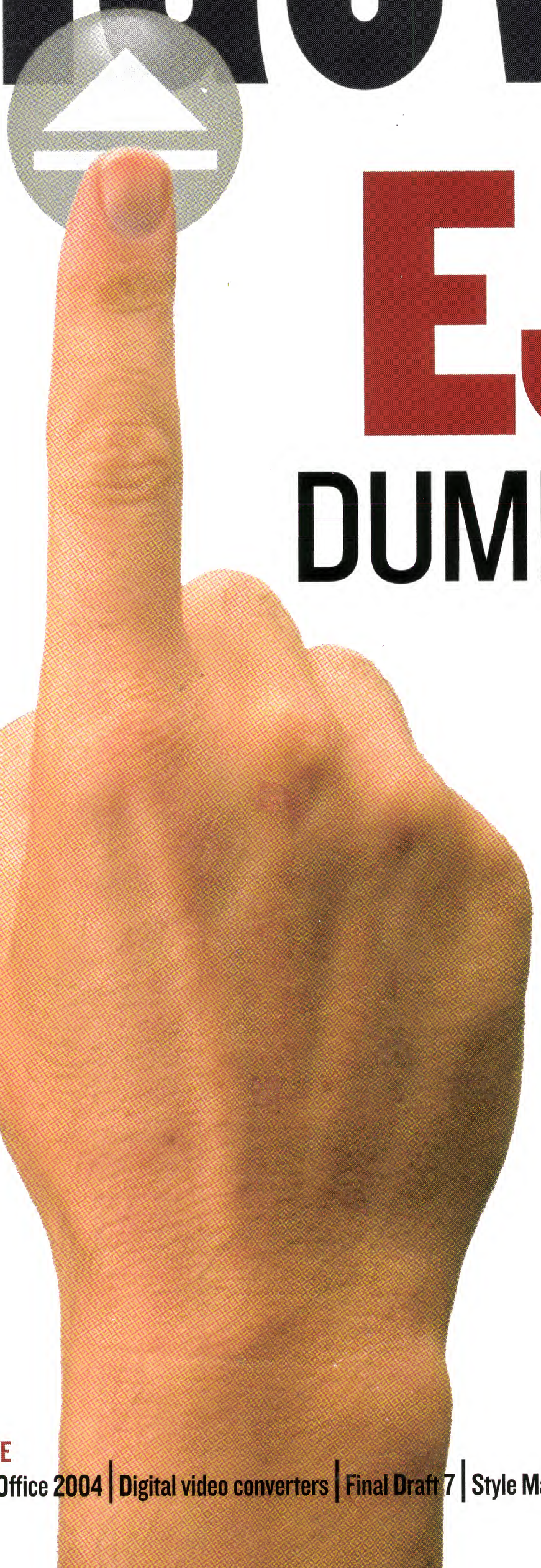
AUSTRALIAN

Macworld



EJECT!

DUMP VHS FOR DVD

Install a SuperDrive
in a PowerBook G4
Enhance an iSight camera
Turn an iBook into
a picture frame
Build a music server
Store more with a RAID
Fax from your Mac
Make your own DNS server

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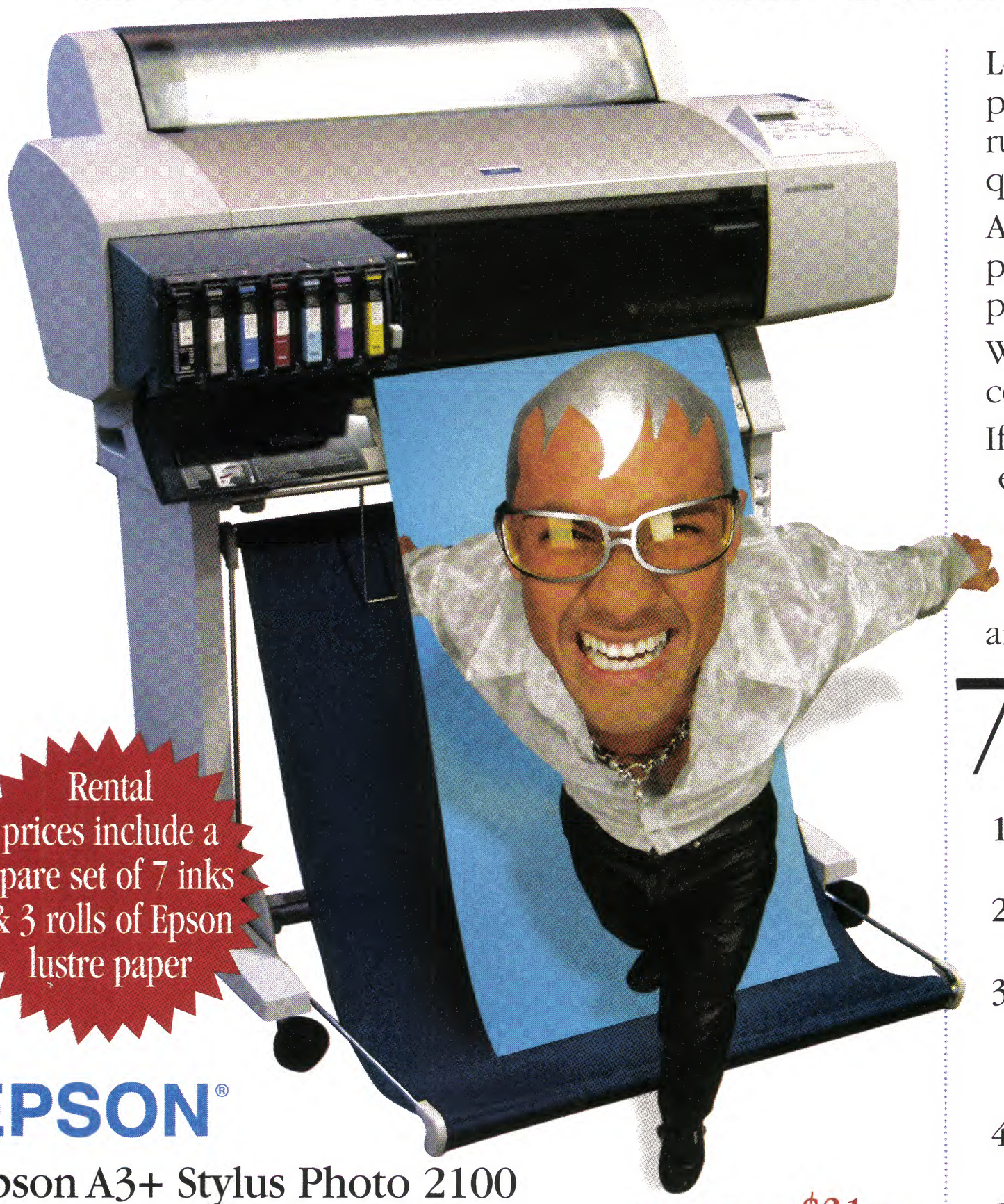

Rental prices include a spare set of 7 inks & 3 rolls of Epson lustre paper

EPSON®

Epson A3+ Stylus Photo 2100
UltraChrome™ 13" (329mm) wide printer ..... RENT FOR ONLY $31/wk#

NEW Epson A2 Stylus Pro 4000
UltraChrome™ 17" (430mm) wide printer..... RENT FOR ONLY $61/wk#

Epson A2+ Stylus Pro 7600
UltraChrome™ 24" (609mm) wide printer..... RENT FOR ONLY $79/wk#

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Rental prices include delivery, printer stand, network card, installation & training (metro area), 1 spare set of 7 inks and 3 rolls of Epson lustre paper. 3 yr Wty

Looking for an UltraBig, UltraCool printer or proofer that's inexpensive to run, and that produces borderless photo-quality prints that last for over 75 years?*

Are you tired of waiting days, and paying someone else for large format prints that still aren't quite right?

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If YES...call the Epson ProGraphics experts in your state today, who specialise in EPSON Stylus Pro printers, together with a range of big name Colour RIPs to ensure a professional and competitive solution for you!

7 Reasons Why Professionals Choose EPSON Stylus Pro

1. **To Gain Full Control** - Ensure your printout or digital proof meets your exact quality requirements.
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5. **Long Life** - EPSON's UltraChrome™ inks produce photo quality prestige prints that remain lightfast for over 75 years.*
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7. **Versatility** - Print onto a wide variety of stock, including matte, gloss, satin, canvas, vinyl, backlit film, watercolour, adhesives, clear & more.

E&OE *Visit www.epson.com.au for further information about lightfastness.
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G5 Workstation Rentals

Fully Equipped G5 Workstations from Designwyse

DUAL 1.8GHz Processors

DUAL 2GHz Processors

DUAL 2.5GHz Processors

DUAL 2.5GHz Processors

Rental Workstation 1
Dual 1.8GHz, 17" LCD & iPod

This well priced Dual G5 workstation lets you experience the power difference of a G5, compared to an older Mac and monitor.

- Dual 1.8GHz Power Mac G5 CPU
- Apple 17" LCD Display 1280x1024
- 1.25GB RAM , 80GB HD Storage
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- NVIDIA GeForce FX 5200 Ultra
- 3xF/Wire, 3xUSB, KB, Mouse, OSX
- 40GB iPod (file transfer/backups)
- Logitech Speaker System
- Onsite Installation & Support

RENT FOR ONLY **$62**/wk#

Rental Workstation 2
Dual 2GHz G5 20" LCD & iPod

An overall faster G5 workstation with greater ram expansion and a larger Apple LCD display for increased productivity.

- Dual 2GHz Power Mac G5 CPU
- Apple 20" LCD Display 1680x1050
- 1.25GB RAM , 160GB HD Storage
- 8 X SuperDrive (DVD-R/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce FX 5200 Ultra
- 3xF/Wire, 3xUSB, KB, Mouse, OSX
- 40GB iPod (file transfer/backups)
- Logitech Speaker System
- Onsite Installation & Support

RENT FOR ONLY **$76**/wk#

Rental Workstation 3
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The fastest G5 CPU with Apple's 20" LCD display provides dual processor grunt for demanding workstation requirements.

- Dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5 CPU
- Apple 20" LCD Display 1680x1050
- 2GB RAM , 280GB HD Storage
- 8 X SuperDrive (DVD-R/CD-RW)
- ATI Radeon 9600 Pro 64MB Video
- 3xF/Wire, 3xUSB, KB, Mouse, OSX
- 40GB iPod (file transfer/backups)
- Logitech Speaker System
- Onsite Installation & Support

RENT FOR ONLY **$82**/wk#

Rental Workstation 4
Dual 2.5GHz G5, 23" LCD & iPod

Apple's top of the range G5 workstation with its huge 23" LCD display, plus lots of ram, storage and a Dolby 5.1 sound system.

- Dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5 CPU
- Apple 23" LCD Display 1920x1200
- 4GB RAM , 500GB HD Storage
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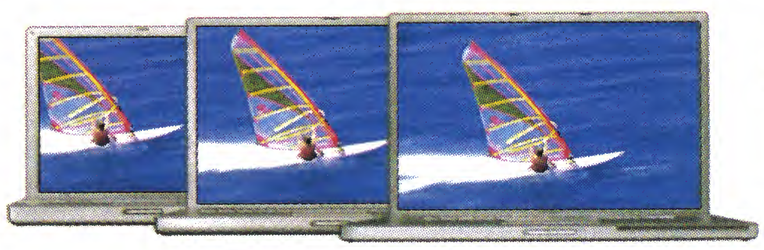
- ATI Radeon 9800 Pro 128MB Video
- 3xF/Wire, 3xUSB, KB, Mouse, OSX
- 40GB iPod (file transfer/backups)
- Logitech Optical 5.1 Sound System
- Onsite Installation & Support

RENT FOR ONLY **$110**/wk#



Apple PowerBook Rentals

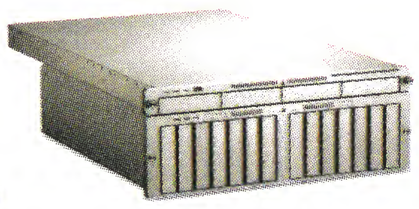
These Rental Powerbooks are packed with extra ram ***PLUS*** an Apple iPod, carry bag, cordless optical mouse plus full parts & labour warranty for the Rental Term.

PowerBook G4 12" Combo Drive
1.33GHz PowerPC G4 512MB Ram, 60GB HDisk, CD-RW/DVD-ROM, Ethernet, FW400, USB Bluetooth & 20GB iPod.....**$34/wk#**

PowerBook G4 15" Combo Drive
1.33GHz PowerPC G4 512MB Ram, 60GB HDisk, CD-RW/DVD-ROM, GBit Ethernet, FW, USB Bluetooth & 40GB iPod.....**$41/wk#**

PowerBook G4 17" Super Drive
1.5GHz PPC G4 1GB Ram, 80GB HDisk, CD-RW/DVD-ROM, GBit Ethernet, FW800, USB Bluetooth & 40GB iPod.....**$52/wk#**

Salary Sacrifice Plans Available



XServe G5 and XRaid Rentals

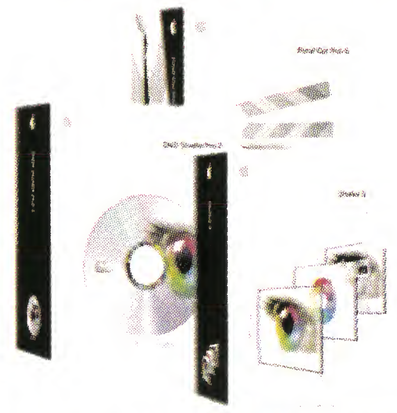
Accelerate your network performance, centralise data for efficient workflows and secure backups, plus get unlimited user licenses with an Apple XServe and XRaid.

New XServe Single 2GHz G5 Server
1GB Ram, 80GB HDisk, Mac OSX Server SW (Unlimited Client Licence) **$69/wk**

New XServe Dual 2GHz G5 Server
1GB Ram, 330GB Storage, Mac OSX Server SW (Unlimited Client Licence) **$86/wk**

XServe RAID 1 Terabyte
4 x 250GB ATA HDisks, Dual Raid Controller, Redundant Power & Cooling.....**$75/wk**

XServe RAID 3.5 Terabytes
14 x 250GB ATA HDisks, Dual Raid Controller, Redundant Power & Cooling.....**$129/wk**



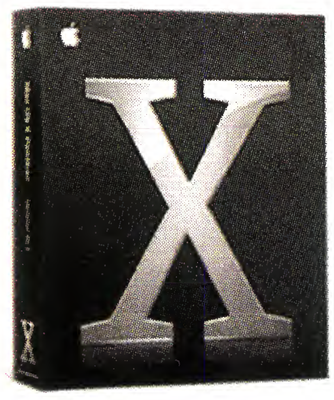
Apple Pro Applications

Apple's Professional Applications are leading edge software products that enable unprecedented power and productivity on Apple workstations and powerbooks.

Final Cut Pro 4.0
Apple's latest professional video editing software. Scale your project from DV right up to High Definition. **$1,750**

DVD Studio Pro 4.0
Designed to simplify professional DVD authoring, with integrated menu editor and pro-quality encoding capabilities **$925**

Shake 3.0
Shake 3 is the industry leading software for some of Hollywood's most fantastic visual effects. Used on the last 6 Oscar winners for best visual effects **$8,700**



OSX Migration Services

Let Designwyse manage your total OSX migration project so that you can quickly & easily benefit from OSX. We do these steps:

- **Prepare a Site Plan & Audit**
  List all hardware and software on the site
- **Evaluate Hardware & Software**
  Determine what upgrades may be required to migrate to OSX.
- **Detailed OSX Migration Proposal**
  Prepare a detailed proposal of costs and steps to be taken to migrate to OSX.
- **Installation and Data Transfer**
  Install the hardware, perform upgrades and transfer data from legacy systems.
- **Train operators in OSX Basics**
  We provide basic 1 on 1 training in OSX operation to fast-track your operators.

 # Rental Plans based on a 3 year term with an upgrade option after 18 months.

The G5 Specialists at Designwyse can tailor a Rental, Lease or Purchase plan to suit your exact requirements.

Please call for Government, or Education prices. Prices include GST. E&OE Prices subject to change without notice. #Weekly figures are for 36 month Rental agreement (monthly payments) and include 3 year AppleCare Warranty where applicable, conditions apply, TAP

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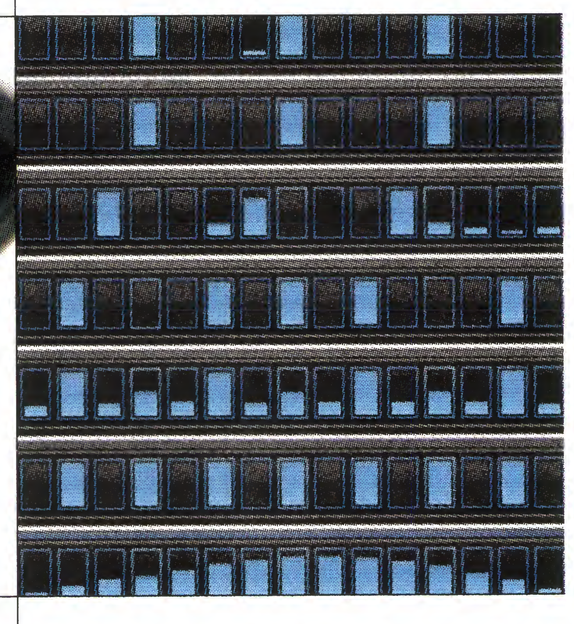

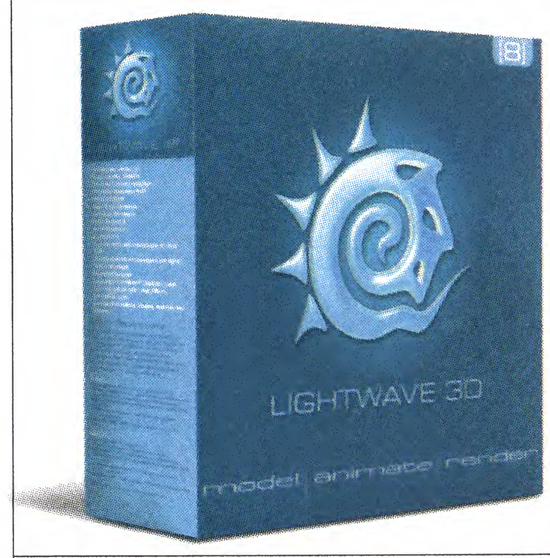

Focus.

030

The DIY Mac — 2004

By various authors.

Add a SuperDrive to an original PowerBook G4, fax from your Mac, turn your Mac into a jukebox or a picture frame, build a hardware RAID and more. This step-by-step guide will show you how to upgrade, supersize and fine-tune your Mac, turning you into a DIY expert in no time flat.

The Hub.

Video.

041

Our series on digitising analogue media concludes with detailed instructions on converting your old VHS tapes to DVD.

Photo.

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Music.

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Mackie makes a splash for music hobbyists.

Mobile.

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Interesting developments, just around the corner.

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Fax from your Mac.

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AMW's 2004 DIY spectacular.

Make your own DNS.

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Master your domain.

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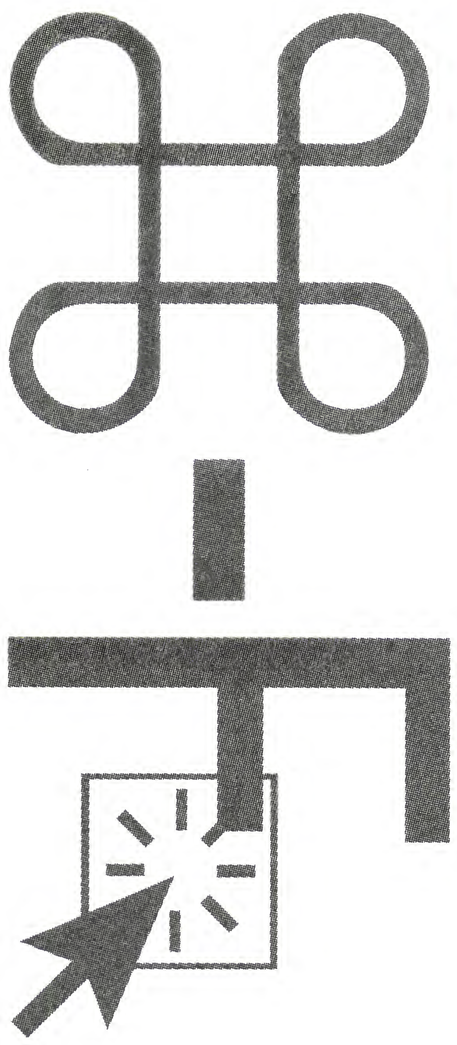
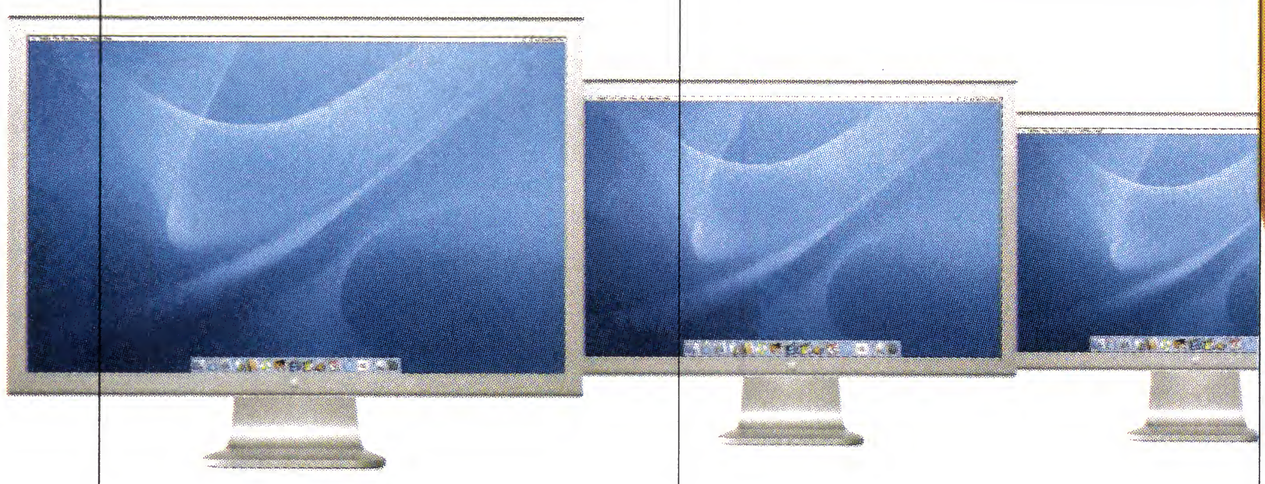
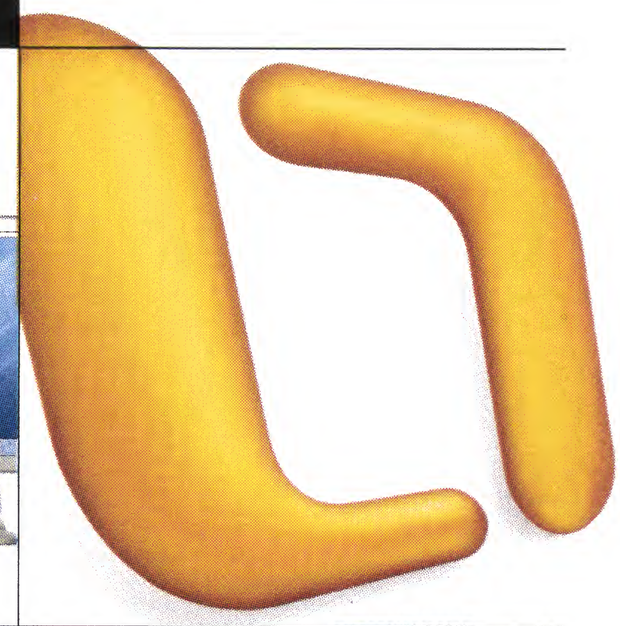
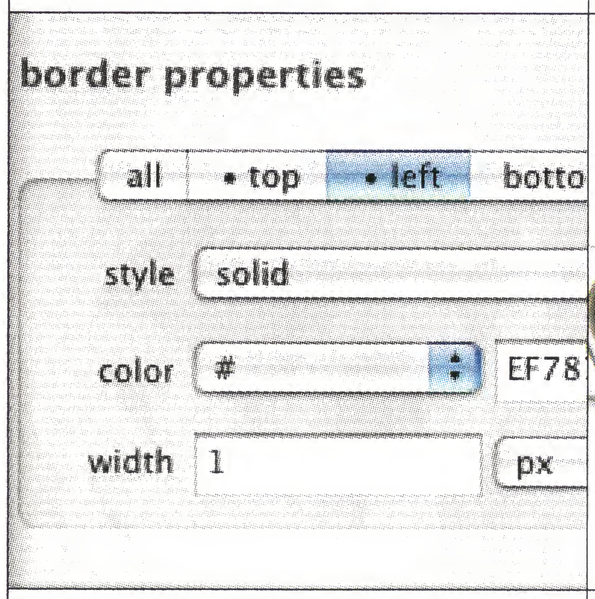
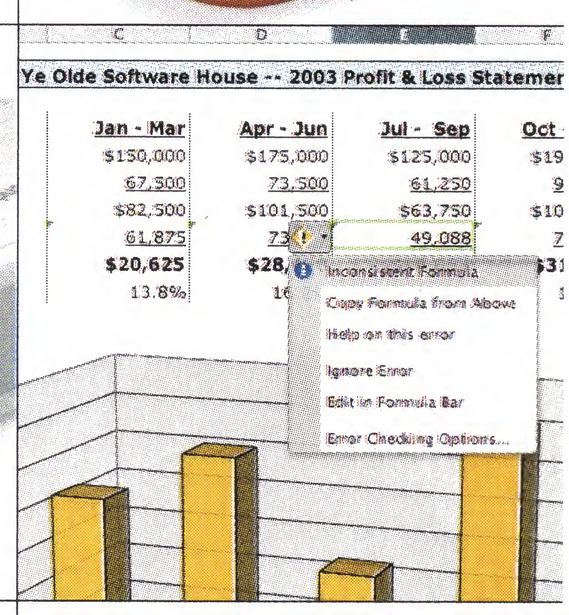
Tips and queries from our readers.











Buzz.

Eyes on Tiger

015

Apple's Worldwide Developer Conference brings a small peek at the next version of OS X, and a huge view of some revised Cinema Displays — up to a massive 30 inches.

Interface.

Commentary.
012
Mailbox.
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Off the net.
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Test drive.

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The upgrade you've been waiting for?

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Studio DV

Digital video converters

076

Bridge the analogue divide

Style Master 3.5

CSSEdit 1.6.3

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Cascading style sheet editors

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Take the drudgery out of CSS coding

ArtMatic Voyager 1.1

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Bryce-like landscape generation returns to the Mac

Final Draft

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Lacks polish

PocketMac Pro 3.3

081

Supplies Mac functionality to your PDA

The Print Shop OS X Edition

082

A Mac classic debuts in OS X

The Digital SLR that can teach you everything it knows.

The Canon EOS 300D Digital SLR. You may not know how to shoot sport, night scenes, or landscapes. But this camera does. And it can teach you everything it knows. The revolutionary Canon 'Mode Dial' lets you instantly match the settings to the situation. The best part? You can see the shot as soon as you've taken it - along with all the settings used to capture the moment. So you can learn from Canon's 60 years of experience, then use more manual control as your skills grow. There are over 50 Canon EF lenses to explore as well. Or you could simply marvel at the precision of the focusing, depth of colour and professional results that a 6.3 Megapixel CMOS sensor and Canon's brilliant DiG!C image processing deliver automatically. AUD$1999.[RRP] **canon.com.au/digitalimage 1800 021 167**

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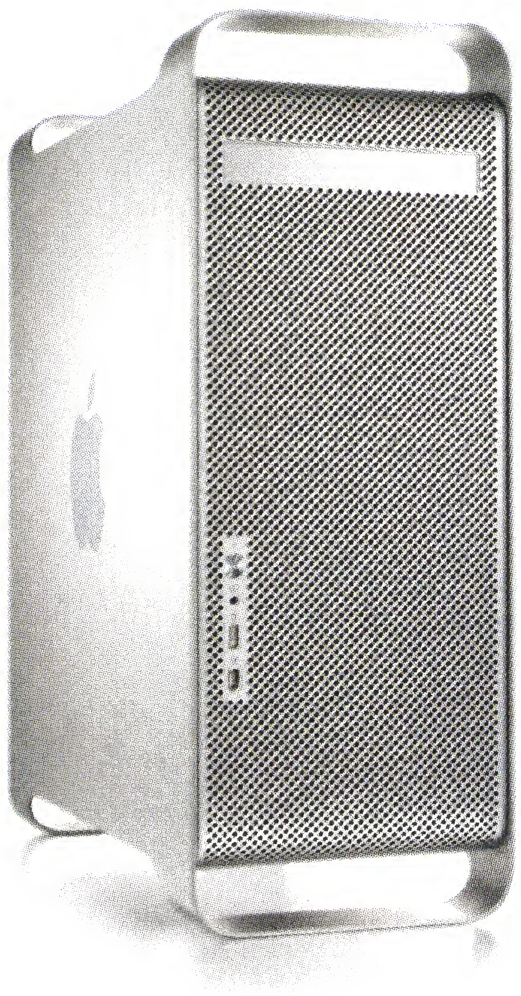
advanced simplicity™

Standard lens is the EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6. Price indicated in AUD$ is Recommended Retail Price only and includes GST. CIP3466/MW

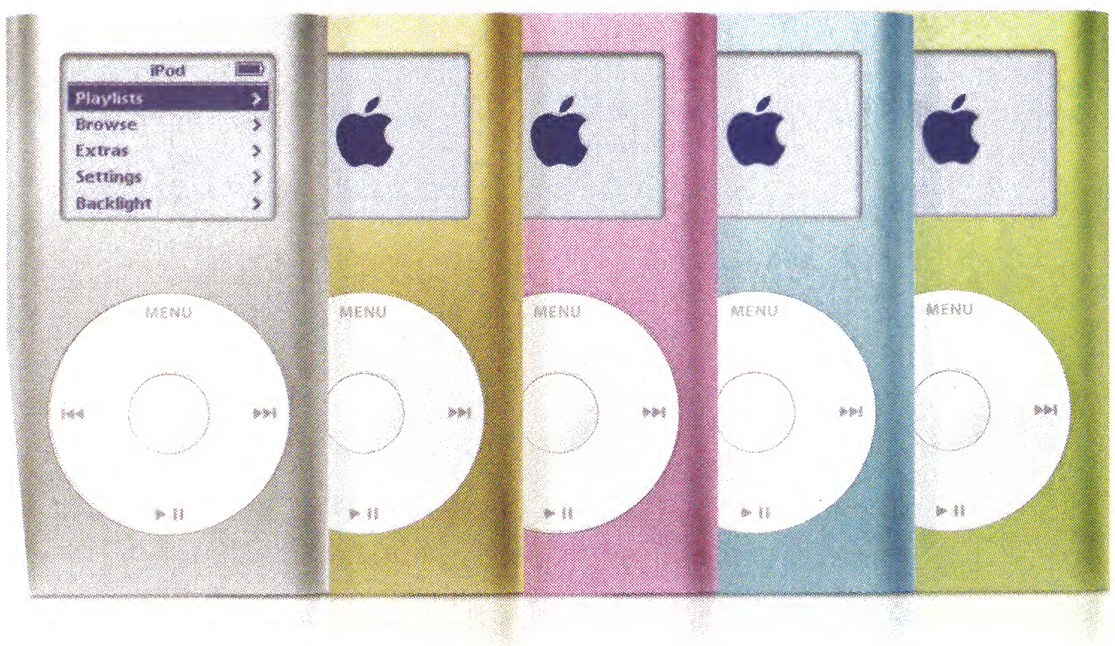
Double Trouble or Triple Treat?



At Total Recall Solutions you can now double the trouble you cause with one of Apple's new liquid cooled dual processor G5s.

To celebrate the release of not only the dual processor G5 but also the release of Airport Extreme with AirTunes and the iPod mini, Total Recall Solutions has a triple treat for you during the months of August and September.

Simply purchase any G5 bundled with Airport Extreme with AirTunes and iPod mini, and we will give you a free treat, an accessory for your new family member. But hurry... if our accountants see this offer we might be in double trouble.



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Finance also available to approved customers. E0&E

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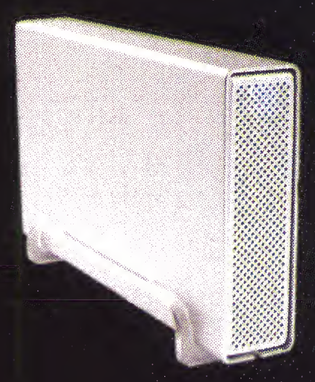
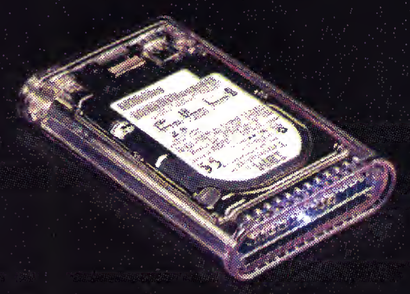
External Storage Solutions



ICECUBE Generation II

- 3.5" Aluminium Enclosure
- Available in USB 2.0, FireWire, FireWire 800
- Drive sizes up to 250GB
- The ultimate desk accessory of 2004.

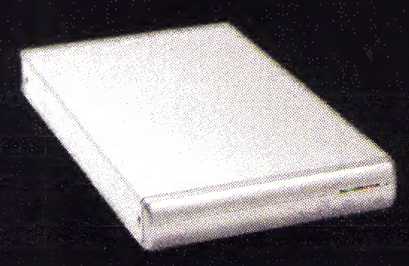


CLEARLIGHT

- 2.5" Polycarbonate clear enclosure
- Available in USB 2.0, FireWire
- Drive sizes up to 80GB
- Fully portable, truly sexy, totally unique.

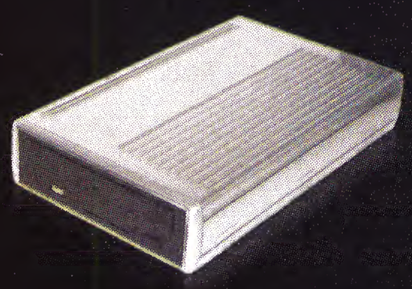
MANTARAY

- 3.5" Aluminium Enclosure
- Available in USB 2.0, FireWire, FireWire 800
- Drive sizes up to 250GB
- With an internal power supply and internal fan, a hardcore and stringent product for the serious user.



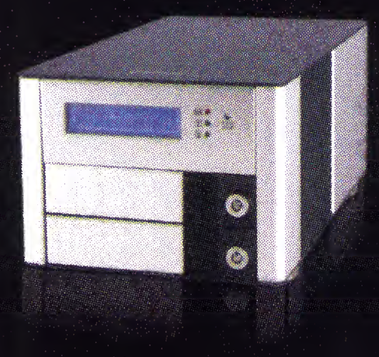
DAISYCUTTER

- 2.5" Aluminium enclosure
- Available in USB 2.0, FireWire
- Drive sizes up to 80GB
- Just put it in your pocket and walk away with huge amounts of data.



HOTBUTTERED

- 5.25" enclosure for CD-R/RW and DVD-R/RW or DVD+R/RW
- Available in USB 2.0, FireWire
- Hot looking slimline casing utilising the latest chipsets to maximise speed, reliability and high performance.

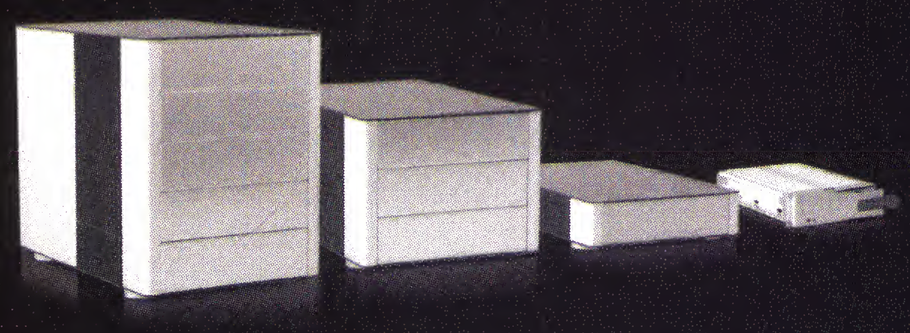


SOHORAID SR3500

- Hardware RAID 0, or 1.
- Incredibly reliable super-fast storage.
- Hot-swappable drive bay.
- FireWire & USB 2.0 Combo
- Drive sizes up to 600GB

SOHOTANK Series

The U7 stackable external storage series has been designed with ease of use in mind; expand when you need to without interrupting your current setup. Both stable and stylish in design, they even come with inbuilt heatsinks for efficient heat dissipation.



SOHORAID SR6500

NEW RELEASE

RAID LEVELS 0, 1, 3 & 5

- Available in FireWire 800, USB 2.0, SATA, SCSI
- 5 drive bays
- Hot Swap design
- Auto rebuilding without interrupting system operation

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For more information on all the above products please visit:

www.siliconmemory.com.au

phone. This is helpful when you want to see how sites look from your phone without eating up your GPRS account.

It also converts movies into just the right size to fit happily on a Sony memory stick, as well as any of your music into a perfect mp3 ringtone. It's a $10 shareware app — which is not overly expensive considering it saves me phone charges.

Zac Cohan
Avalon Beach, NSW

Speaking to the people

■ In your Digital Music Superguide (*AMW* 06.2004) you suggest that "it's best to go to a store where you can listen to potential purchases" when looking for a computer speaker system. I have found this to be an impossibility — "hi-fi" stores which let you audition speakers don't stock computer speakers, and stores stocking computer speakers don't let you audition them! In the end I gave up and went by online reviews and purchased online for the best price.

Greg Andresen
Henley Beach, SA

Interesting. We've never had a problem getting computer stores to let us listen to speakers, but then we're AMW *types. If any readers have a local computer store that lets you listen to speakers before you buy, please write in and give them a plug. Likewise, if any computer dealers are willing to let prospective customers listen to speakers in store, let us know. We'll print a listing of "listener friendly" stores in a future issue. — M.JC.P.*

Video issues

■ The help folder in *AMW* 05.2004 documents how to fix some iDVD problems. In the article it says to ensure that it is set to PAL and not NTSC. What is the difference and can people in the US read either too? What is best for us Aussies?

Also, a few times I have gone to watch a DVD that has asked me to change the region from 4. How many times can I change this? It says that it can only be done five times but is it only software, so after a reformat it would reset the count?

Mike Allbutt
Melbourne, Victoria

PAL versus NTSC is a reasonably complex issue, so we'll cover it in depth in an upcoming instalment of The Hub. Essentially, NTSC (which is used in the USA and Japan) is lower resolution than PAL (used in the UK and Australia), but at a higher frame rate. Most Australian DVD players and TVs will handle both, but very few American DVD players will play PAL. For the widest compatibility, use NTSC. For the best quality in a DVD that will only be played in Australia or the UK, use PAL.

The region coding on your computer's DVD player is a firmware issue and won't necessarily be reset by reformatting your hard drive. There are utilities that will allow you to reset the firmware to give yourself five more changes, but as these violate copyright laws, we're unable to provide links to them. Hunt about on Google if you wish. — M.JC.P.

Correction

In the article "Colourful Photoshop" (*AMW*, 07.2004), some text was omitted from the beginning of the second column on page 57. The paragraph should have read "Alternatively, you can ignore both the Master Diameter value and the Hardness value and select a predefined brush from the scrolling list." The gremlins responsible have been banished.

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Tiger shows its stripes

Apple gave attendees of this year's Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in San Francisco a first look at the next major revision to Mac OS X v10.4, known by its code-name "Tiger". Version 10.4 is expected to be released some time in the first half of 2005, and Apple is touting more than 150 new features, according to CEO Steve Jobs.

I am behind you, I always find you. Major new features expected to draw the interest of consumers include a new search technology called Spotlight, that enables users to search for any file, document or information their Mac contains. The software has been modelled to work like the search capabilities of Apple's popular iTunes music software application, and can find e-mails, presentations, images, appointments, Microsoft Office documents and more, arranging its search results by kind, time or people. What's more, Spotlight enables users to create "Smart Folders", "Smart Playlists", "Smart Mailboxes" and "Smart Groups" that work in the Finder and individual applications to keep content organised and updated automatically.

Safari, Apple's standards-based web browser for Mac OS X, will feature integrated support for RDF Site Summary, or RSS – an increasingly popular method of finding updated content on web sites. Safari can operate as a full-featured RSS reader, and Mac

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Plasma displays and Apple products were the most popular products and technologies on the NAB2004 show floor, according to a survey conducted by New York-based Weinstock Media Analysis, reports TVTechnology.com. Motion and Xsan were top-ranked in the survey. GarageBand placed 10th. [Jun 11] Read more...
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users will be able to create their own news clippings service using the feature.

Also new to Tiger is Dashboard, an interface for "Widgets," or specialised applications. The technology is based on Mac OS X 10.3's Exposé feature, and provides ways for users to access information like stock quotes, calendar information, calculators, webcam interfaces and more quickly and conveniently. Tiger will include several Widgets and will also be exposed to developers through the release of a Software Development Kit (SDK). Dashboard came under immediate criticism from many attendees because of its similarity to popular shareware utility Konfabulator (see the sidebar "The sincerest form of flattery").

iChat, Apple's popular text, audio and video messaging service, will get an overhaul in Tiger with the introduction of support for H.264, a new video codec that scales from 3G "smartphones" to HD-quality video. The new version of iChat will also sport the ability for up to three people to video-chat with one another simultaneously, or ten people to audio-chat.

In the belly of the Tiger. Other new features coming to OS X 10.4 will include Core Image and Core Video, a new foundation technology for image and video processing applications modeled after the Core Audio technology Apple leverages with pro audio applications. QuickTime, Apple's popular multimedia playback and editing technology, will gain support for H.264 video in the Tiger release as well. Automator is a new visual application coming to Tiger based on AppleScript technology that enables users to automate repetitive tasks without needing to write scripts.

.Mac data synchronisation gets an upgrade with Tiger, too – the software uses an entirely new engine, according to Apple, that lets .Mac users sync contacts, bookmarks, e-mail preferences and calendars across multiple machines.

Mac OS X v10.4 gets an overhauled Unix kernel with improved Symmetric Multi-Processing (SMP) scalability to run more efficiently on multi-processor machines; also integrated is Xgrid, Apple's grid computing technology. 64-bit virtual memory support has been added, also. Windows compatibility has been improved with the ability to access Windows-based home directories and authenticate against Microsoft's Active Directory technology.

Apple said that Mac OS X v10.4 "Tiger" will hit stores in the first half of 2005, but did not offer a more precise time frame than that. The software retains Panther's price, however – it will cost $229.

Tiger Server. Mac OS X 10.4 Server, or Tiger Server, will also get major new features in this release above and beyond the client version. Tiger Server adds the ability to publish weblogs (or blogs) by checking a box in Server Admin preferences using a system based on the open source project "Blojsom". A new iChat server is available for private intranet communications, with the ability for organisations to define their own namespace, deploy SSL/TSL encryption and Kerberos-based authentication.

Tiger Server will also gain Windows server migration tools to help admins move user and group account information from Windows Primary Domain Controllers into Open Directory; the Tiger Server can then take over as the Primary Domain Controller for Windows clients and can host Windows users' home directories and other content.

Other new features will include Mobile Home Directories – centrally stored directories available for users on the road or in the office; a Software Update Server; Access Control Lists; an Internet Gateway Setup Assistant to simplify the process of small businesses and home office users connecting to network services; and Xgrid 1.0, Apple's grid computing software for scientists and researchers.

Look for Tiger Server to be released in the first half of 2005 for $849 for a 10-client version and $1699 for an unlimited client version. Current Apple Maintenance Program subscribers will be eligible to receive Tiger Server as part of their service agreement, at the time of release. ● *Peter Cohen*

The sincerest form of flattery

When Steve Jobs unveiled Tiger at the WWDC, many of the new features were met with applause and cheers from the crowd. One new feature, Dashboard, generated an equal amount of controversy for the company as Apple demoed a feature that many onlookers claim shares many similarities to a shareware application called Konfabulator.

Arlo Rose and Perry Clarke developed Konfabulator, which is a JavaScript runtime engine for Mac OS X that lets you run files called Widgets. Widgets can do pretty much anything you want them to, according to the developers, from simple utilities like alarm clocks to games to AirPort signal strength, stock quote grabs and more.

On its Mac OS X Tiger preview web site, Apple describes Dashboard as the "home to a new kind of application called Widgets". Widgets, Apple says, are mini-applications written in JavaScript that keep you up to date with timely information from the internet such as stock quotes or the latest view from your favorite web cam. They can also provide quick, simple access to frequently used applications such as a calculator, a playback controller for iTunes and a contact look-up for Address Book.

"It doesn't make any sense to me," said Arlo Rose, the developer of Konfabulator. "Why would a company piss off a developer whose whole purpose is to try to get more people to come to this company's platform by doing cool things? If this is what they do with the products they think are the best, then why would anyone have any reason to develop more cool stuff? I certainly don't."

Jupiter Research senior analyst, Joe Wilcox, points out that the integration of technologies into an operating system is nothing new for Apple or Microsoft. Wilcox cites media players, instant messengers and photo management features, which are all part of Windows and Mac OS X — their predecessors were either shareware or commercial products, Wilcox said.

Wilcox also points out that platform companies have to be careful when dealing with their developers to avoid negative feelings, which could spread. "Vendors that sell platform technologies other companies build onto run the risk of creating developer animosity when adding new features to operating systems," said Wilcox. "One offended developer could multiply into hundreds. There's a concept that one satisfied customer will tell three friends, but the dissatisfied person will complain to 100."

After the keynote address introducing Dashboard, rumors swirled around WWDC that Apple had tried to purchase Konfabulator, but Rose and his partner refused the deal — a point Rose emphatically denies.

The use of the term "Widgets" in Dashboard led many people to the conclusion that Dashboard was somehow based on Konfabulator. While Rose readily admits that the term has been around for many years to describe a variety of things, he contends that in the Mac market "Widgets" have been closely associated with Konfabulator. "Now when someone talks about Widgets in the context of little floating applications they're not going to know if they're talking about Apple's thing or our thing. Given how studious Apple is about trying to make sure their copyrights and names are protected, I find it appalling that they would take that route."

Apple Senior Vice President Phil Schiller said in a CNET interview that Dashboard is Apple's own creation and that Widgets have long been a part of Mac OS X and the NextStep OS. "The goal isn't to be like anything else," Schiller told CNET. "It's not his stuff. What we've done is ours."

Rose said he found Apple's marketing campaign surrounding Tiger very ironic. The WWDC conference centre was filled with banners mocking Microsoft's upcoming Windows Longhorn release for their lack of innovations. "When I saw Apple's banners saying, 'Redmond, start your photocopiers' I thought that was the creepiest thing they could have done knowing that half of the technologies they are tossing into Tiger are things they lifted from other people," said Rose.

"The fact they don't stop to think that they are ruining the livelihood of third-party developers is insane." ● Jim Dalrymple

Hot Links

www.apple.com.au/displays
What's the big idea?

A really big show

Apple used the WWDC to unveil its long-rumoured 30-inch Cinema HD Display, a flat panel screen that features 2560x1600 pixel resolution. Apple also introduced new 23-inch and 20-inch displays to replace its existing flat panel monitors. The new displays all have the by-now familiar widescreen aspect ratio found across almost all of Apple's pro hardware line, and sport dual FireWire 400 and USB 2.0 ports, and use DVI to connect to video cards instead of Apple's vaunted ADC interface – making the new monitors compatible out-of-the-box with Power Macs, PowerBooks, and PC-compatible computers as well.

The new monitors feature an aluminium casing created to complement the industrial look of Apple's pro hardware, consistent with the theme first introduced when the Power Mac G5 hit the stage a year ago. A thin bezel is suspended by an aluminium stand equipped with an adjustable hinge. What's more, the displays can be mounted on walls or articulated stands that comply with the Video Electronics Standards Association (VESA) mounting interface standard – an optional Cinema Display VESA Mount Adapter kit is available.

The 30-inch Cinema HD requires a $1049 Nvidia GeForce 6800 Ultra DDL graphics card and a Power Mac G5 in order to work. The card features two dual-link DVI connectors to enable two 30-inch Cinema HD displays to work side by side (because, of course, one will not be enough). The card will be available as a build-to-order option in new Power Mac G5s beginning in August; an upgrade kit for existing G5s will also be available at that time.

The 23-inch Apple Cinema HD display retains its 1920x1200 pixel resolution and the 20-inch Apple Cinema Display works at 1680x1050 pixel resolution. Both the 20-inch and 23-inch displays will be available in July for $2299 and $3499 respectively. The 30-inch display will be available in August for $5999. ● *Peter Cohen*

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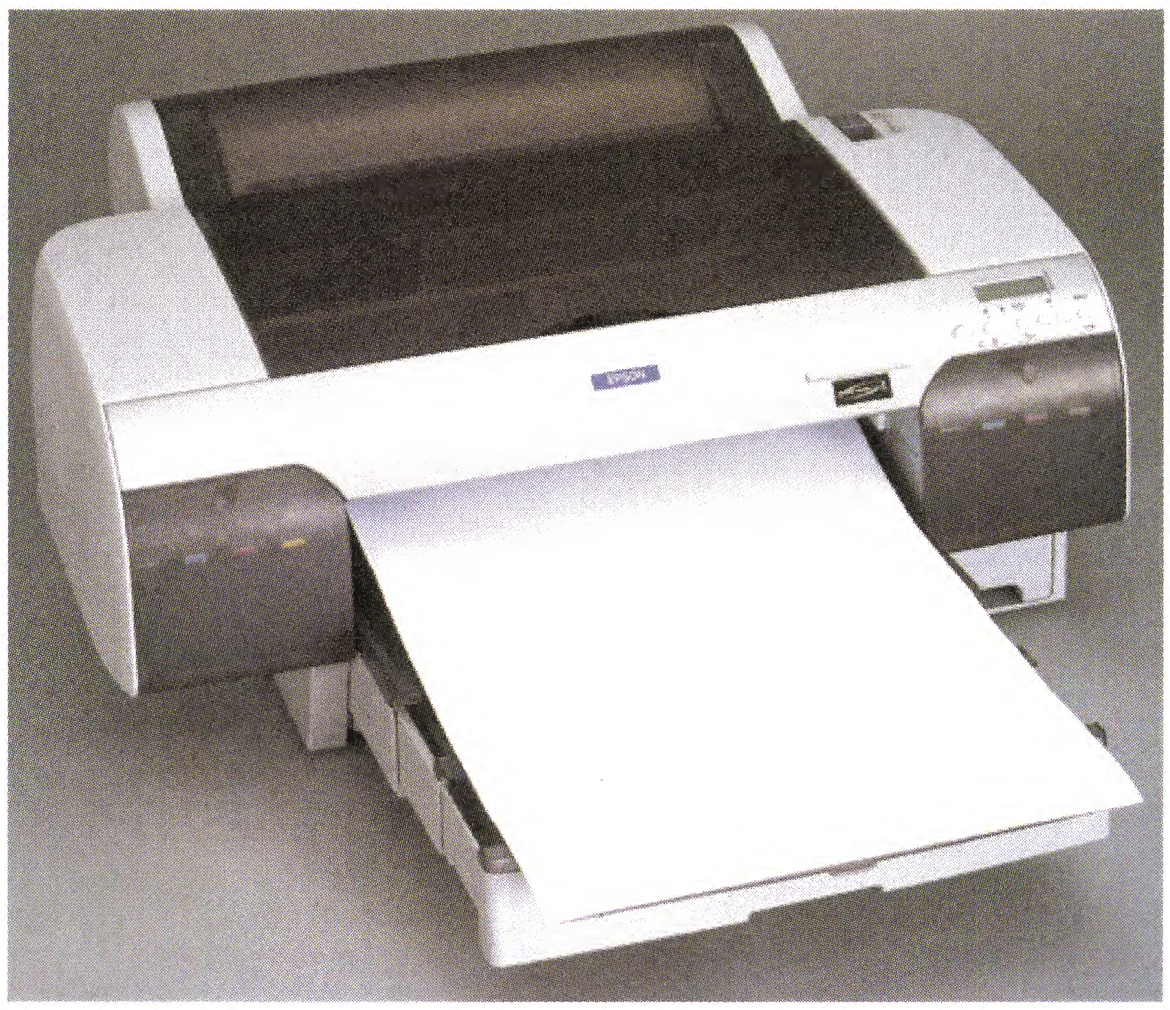

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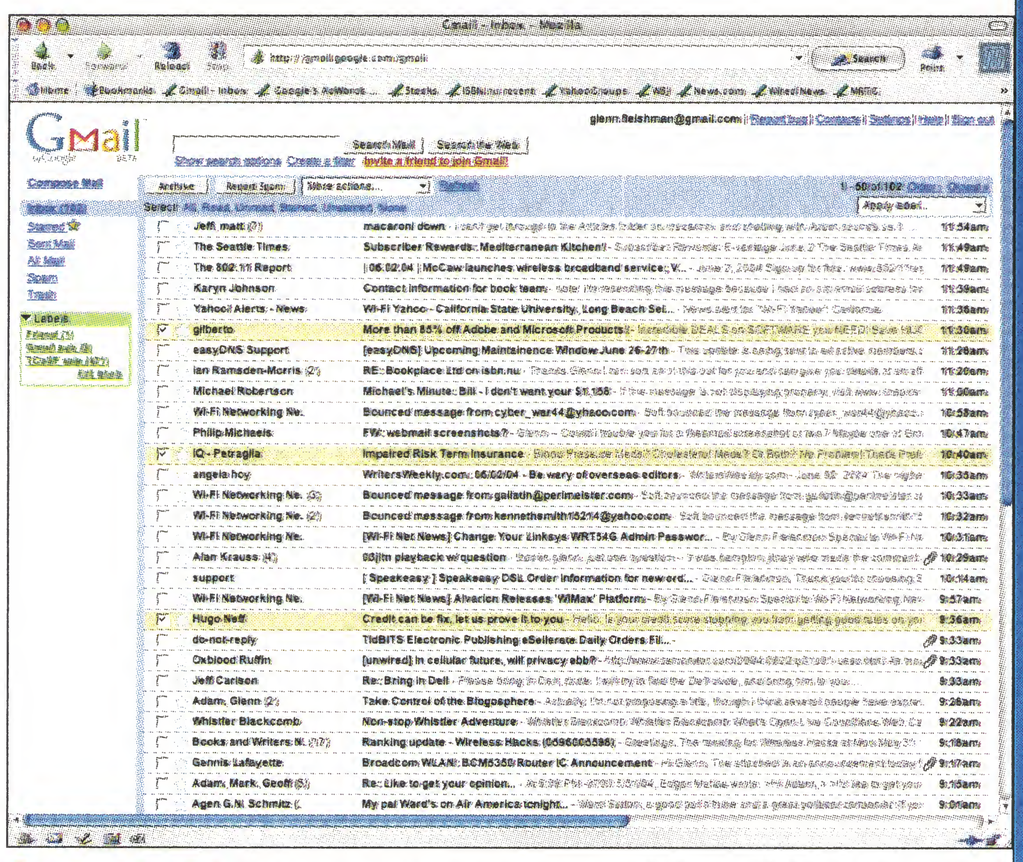
Most web mail services include basic or advanced spam filtering, using blocklists, self-reporting options, your own personal blacklist, and Bayesian word-frequency methods. Most also let you report spam you've received.

Roll call. The long-established free web mail providers include Yahoo and Hotmail. Hotmail offers the basics, with fees for additional storage beyond 2MB. Yahoo recently announced plans to extend its free storage, in response to newer services that dramatically extend mailbox size. Gmail, from Google, was still a beta at press time, but will offer 1GB for free. Gmail recently added Safari to its list of supported browsers (see the sidebar "Gmail lifts Mac limit"). Mac-centric site SpyMac.com quickly matched Google's offer, providing an array of hosting services at no cost, including 1GB of e-mail storage.



Spam, canned. You can mark messages and then click on Report Spam to improve Gmail's spam-filtering capability.

While using open public networks, you might want to rely on a service that offers a Secure Sockets Layer web connection that encrypts your web mail–reading session. Only Gmail and FastMail.FM – a full-service web mail provider that lets you use your own domains for an extra fee – explicitly offer this service.

Mailblocks.com stands out among web mail providers that offer free accounts with its challenge-and-response spam filtering. Each e-mail sender who isn't on your approved list receives an automated challenge message. Once that recipient responds, the message – and all subsequent messages from that sender – moves from a pending folder into your in-box.

Before you set up a web mail account, you should check with your ISP to see if it offers a web mail service; many do via their regular web page–account login. ● *Glenn Fleishman*

Gmail lifts Mac limit

It's easy to understand why Gmail has stirred up a lot of buzz, even though the Google-backed web mail service was still a beta at press time. With a full gigabyte of storage space, Gmail users can turn their Gmail accounts into remote file servers. Javascript functions, such as keyboard shortcuts and the ability to expand and collapse messages without an HTTP fetch, make Gmail feel more like a desktop application than a web-based one. Since Gmail sorts messages by labels rather than by folders, users can file the same e-mail in multiple categories. Conversation threading and a powerful search tool — both of which are similar to features in Apple's Mail app — make finding old messages a snap.

One thing had dimmed Mac users' excitement over Gmail: until a few weeks ago, you needed to use a browser from Netscape or Mozilla if you wanted to give Google's web mail service a whirl.

Google has pledged to add support for other browsers — just as it did in June with Apple's Safari. "We're going to make it work with Safari, and that's one of the high-priority things. I want to fix that, and I want to make it work really well," Google cofounder Sergey Brin told *Macworld* shortly before Safari was added to the list of supported web browsers.

Furthermore, Google said that it plans to release an HTML-only version of Gmail that works with all browsers. ● Mathew Honan

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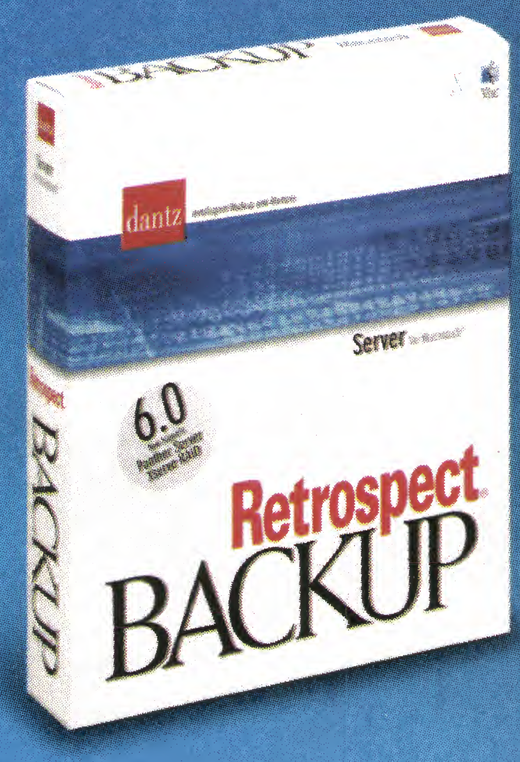

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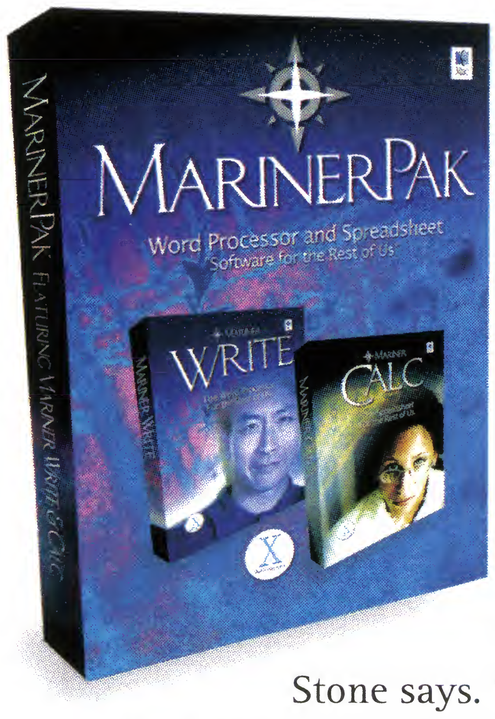
Anyone who's ever bought software knows the drill: you pay for a product up front and whenever there's a major upgrade, you reach into your wallet again. A growing number of developers are challenging this conventional approach to selling software by offering free lifetime upgrades.

Mariner Software is the latest company to go the free-upgrade route. Registered Mariner Write and Mariner Calc users who've bought the $US70 applications can pay $US50 per copy for each app in exchange for free upgrades – no matter how major – for the rest of the program's life. Mariner Software president Michael Wray expects only 20 percent of his customers to take advantage of the offer. That's enough to meet a company goal: building customer loyalty. "We hope they'll remember us when we introduce new products," Wray says.

While it may seem difficult even for small software companies to survive by charging a one-time-only fee, long-time advocates of lifetime upgrades contend that's not the case. "We don't spend heavily on marketing and management," says Andrew Stone of Stone Design, which has offered free upgrades of its productivity and design tools since August 2002. "If we get one percent of the Mac community to buy our product, we will make $US300 million."



Software users may not have to shell out cash for updates constantly, but if software makers get users' money up front will they have an incentive to offer regular, substantial upgrades? "[Customers] can alert us to a bug or a problem, and we can have the fixes out within a month in most cases. And it's free," Stone says. "We want people to buy once and feel part of our community forever. That's the incentive we have to keep offering upgrades regularly." ● *Adelia Cellini*

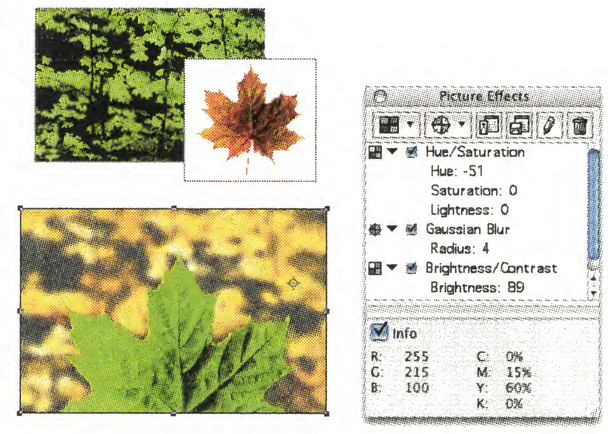
■ PUBLISHING

Fixing Quark's image

Here's a pop quiz for all the print designers out there: a client hands you a CD full of problem images. For some of those images, you tweak the colour balance and apply sharpening; for others, you adjust the contrast and blur the background.

You emboss one photo and diffuse another. Now, what application are you in?

In a few months, the answer could be QuarkXPress 6. Quark is rolling out QuarkVista, a free XTension that brings image-editing capabilities to its page-layout program. QuarkVista includes dozens of adjustments, filters, and transformations. All are non-destructive – that is, they don't change the source image, so you can alter or remove any effect at any time.



Effecting Quark. QuarkVista adds image-editing features — such as Gaussian Blur — to QuarkXPress.

Quark doesn't see its new XTension as a Photoshop slayer. "We're not competing with Photoshop," says Dan Logan, QuarkVista product manager. "It's a good application." Instead, Logan says, Quark wanted QuarkVista to tackle tasks that don't require a full-blown image-editing app. "A stand-alone editor is best when you need to run an effect on a selection or a certain channel. QuarkVista doesn't do that." ● *Terri Stone*

Hot Links

www.modulosystems.com.au
Australian home of Quark products

Quark updates licensing

Quark announced in early July that it has revised its single-user license policy for its flagship desktop publishing software, QuarkXPress 6. Under the new policy, users can install and activate the software on a second computer for no additional charge. The new policy allows for non-concurrent use of QuarkXPress on two systems on the same platform. Users can install the software on a second computer and activate it over the internet effective immediately.

This policy replaces Quark's existing Mobile Licensing program — users who have a Mobile License can request a coupon redeemable for the purchase of Quark software or services, according to the company. ● Peter Cohen

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Maya Unlimited coming to OS X

Alias shared the keynote stage with Steve Jobs at Apple's WWDC to announce that its popular 3D graphics and animation software package Maya Unlimited is coming to Mac OS X.

Alias General Manager Bob Bennett referred to "overwhelming, consistent demand" from Alias' Mac users as the reason why Maya Unlimited is finally coming to Mac OS X. While Maya Complete has run on Mac OS X since 2001, such add-ons as Maya Fluid Effects, Maya Cloth, Maya Hair, Maya Fur and Maya Live weren't available to Mac users until now. That's put Mac-based Maya 3D artists at a disadvantage, as the Unlimited tools provide much greater realism and complexity than can be accomplished with the Complete package.

29 percent of Maya Complete sales in North America go to Mac users; 20 percent of Alias' Maya Complete sales are made to Mac users globally. The company expects to ship the Mac OS X version of Maya Unlimited later this year. Australian distributor Storm FX (see "Hot links") didn't have local pricing available at press time, but the package will sell in the US for $US6999. ● *Brad Cook*

Twenty AUSOM years

What originally switched you on to the Mac? For many of us it was a friend or co-worker whose enthusiasm for their computer somehow caught on. For others it was one of Apple's punchy advertisements in magazines or on TV. If you're in the latter category you may well remember that first Apple ad with a sense of misty-eyed nostalgia.

If that sounds like you, and you're in Melbourne in August, you'll want to troop down to AUSOM's presentation on Saturday the 7th. The subject will be Twenty Years of the Mac — as seen through Apple's ads. As usual the presentation will be in the Main auditorium of Building 4 at the Elgar Road campus of Box Hill TAFE, corner of Whitehorse and Elgar roads, Box Hill. Rock up by 1:00pm.

Disc Stakka for OS X

Imation's versatile and affordable 100-disc carousel, the Disc Stakka, is now available for OS X. The device plugs into your Mac via a single USB cable and allows access to CDs, DVDs, music and game discs within seconds. You can also stack as many as five units on top of each other, for "virtually online" access to up to 500 discs. If you want to go really crazy, link multiple stacks together — up to 50,000 discs can be at your fingertips.

The key to the whole process is the OpdiTracker database software, which keeps track of the location of every file on every disc in the Stakka. Discs are indexed when first inserted into the Stakka, and then users can find files by title, date, directory or keyword. OS X 10.1 or later is required.

Designed for business or studio use, the Stakka is ideal for those with a need for quick access to thousands of files. However, its $199 price tag makes it affordable for home use — for those who just can't be bothered finding CDs manually. Contact Imation on 02 8858 3000 for more info. ● *Matthew JC. Powell*

■ COMP WINNERS

Office organisation

In the June issue we offered the opportunity to win a copy of Microsoft Office for demonstrating how disorganised your actual office is — whoever most needed the organisational benefits of MS Office would win a copy.

We should tell you that the Gold Standard by which the entries were measured was the workspace of *AMW* editor Matthew JC. Powell. If your office seemed significantly more organised than his — if, for example, you could find your computer easily — you weren't in the running.

That said, we found some spectacularly disorganised readers. We won't print any of the winning photos (any more than Matthew would let us print a photo of his shocking bomb-site of a desk) to avoid any embarrassment. Matthew has not, tragically, become any more organised since he started using Office 2004 — we wish our winners greater success.

Without further ado, then, the winners are: **Laurie Faen** of Leichhardt NSW, **Scott Mackenzie** of Queanbeyan ACT, **Martin Taylor** of Jerrara NSW, **Geoffrey Richardson** of Evandale Tasmania and **Chris Sparks** of Lane Cove, NSW.

Congratulations to our winners. Your prizes will be on their way shortly.

Make mine music. Way back in May we offered the opportunity to win a copy of Mac Home recording Power to seven budding musos. A problem with two of the entries meant that we didn't feel we could fairly award the prize last issue as promised.

The problem has been resolved, so we are now pleased to announce that our seven highly creative winners were: **Matthew Orlovich**, **Mark Raffety**, **Jacob Tracey**, **Thomas Nohel**, **Marley Horsnell Proud**, **Steve Younis** and **Craig Williams**.

Congratulations to the seven of you, your books are on their way. ● *AMW staff*

Hot Links

www.microsoft.com/mac
Home of Office 2004
www.woodslane.com.au
Publisher of many computer books

Off the net

Latest shareware and free downloads

Firefox – The Browser, Reloaded
mozilla
Firefox
the browser, reloaded.
Firefox 0.9.1 is the award winning preview of Mozilla's next generation browser. Firefox empowers you to browse faster, more safely and efficiently than with any other browser. Press Release.
Download Now!
"...nothing short of a revelatory experience."
- Maximum PC
"...a breath of fresh air... Microsoft should be worried."
- FORBES
Popup Blocking
Stop annoying popup ads in their tracks with Firefox's built in popup blocker.
Tabbed Browsing
View more than one web page in a single window with this time saving feature. Open links in the background so that they're ready for viewing when
New in Firefox 0.9.1
- Extension Manager
- Theme Manager
- Data Migration/Import
- New Visual Theme
- Better Bookmarks
- Better Search

■ Firefox 0.9.1 Freeware X (10.1 or later)

The latest release of the sleek Mozilla-based browser. Firefox's greatest strength (apart from outstanding page-rendering and a beautifully designed, bloat-free interface) is its ability to be customised according to your needs. Some of the Firefox extensions available online are ad-blocker, bookmarks synchroniser (keep your bookmarks in-sync between a home Mac and a work PC for example), and a useful Flash blocking tool that still allows you to see animations by clicking a play button.

■ Thunderbird 0.7 Freeware X (10.1)

If you don't like Apple Mail's interface, then Firefox's companion e-mail client, Thunderbird, is the best free alternative program available. It's fully-featured, with a very well-designed interface, and if you think you'll ever need to move your mail database over to a Windows or Linux machine, you'll find it's easy: Thunderbird uses the exact same format across all platforms, unlike most mail clients.

■ Shiira 0.9.2 Freeware X (10.3 or later)

A new web browser that uses Safari's rendering engine, but offers many interface enhancements that users have been asking for, like variable width tabs for tabbed browsing, ability to be "skinned" with a new look, and more. It seems to be slightly faster than Safari. Conveniently, it can use the same bookmark file as Safari, which makes switching between the two browsers effortless.

■ Filechute 1.6.1 $US12 Shareware X (10.2 or later)

Filechute is designed for anyone who's ever come up against e-mail attachment size limits — and that's just about everyone. Simply drop a file "into the chute", and paste the URL back into your e-mail. FileChute does the work of compressing the files into an archive, uploading them via FTP or iDisk (or your own WebDAV server) and putting the URL into your clipboard. It will even use snipurl.com to make the shortest-possible URL to paste into your e-mail. Magic!

■ BookIt 3.2.1 $US12 Shareware X

Synchronise your bookmarks between all your web browsers. Supports Firebird, Camino, iCab, Internet Explorer, Netscape, Mozilla, Omniweb, Opera and Safari. Then, if you like, access your bookmarks via a docklet.

■ Subscriber 1.0.3r2 $US9.99 Shareware X

Monitor web pages for changes, without reporting annoying things like banner ad changes or dates being updated on the page. You decide which part of the page you want to watch. Makes "subscribing" to web pages useful!

■ EasyWMA 2.0.2 Freeware X (10.2 or later)

Converts Windows Media Audio (WMA) files to MP3 so they can be easily played in iTunes. Can convert your whole library in one click.

■ Synergy 1.1.7 Freeware X

Using multiple keyboards is a drag when you have more than one computer side-by-side. Sure, you can use a keyboard-video-mouse switcher box, but they often have their own problems with peripheral compatibility with different operating systems, and so on. Synergy (not to be confused with the identically-named iTunes controller) solves the problem by allowing you to use one keyboard and mouse across multiple different computers — even if they're running different systems. At the moment, it supports Windows, OS X and Linux. It's not for the faint-hearted — at the moment there is no graphical user interface for configuration on OS X. The developers have promised it is coming very soon — perhaps by the time you read this.

■ Cronnix 2.1 Freeware X

Run system commands, Applescripts or programs at any interval you specify using Cronnix, which writes out the config file for OS X's inbuilt task scheduler Cron.

● *Dan Warne*

Hot Links

www.ausmac.net
Download the software in Off the net

Awesome. Wicked. Sexy.
We're sure our latest Mac products will excite you too.
PALAEOGRAPHICS
Freecall: 1800 BUY MAC
www.buymac.com.au
Free delivery for online orders until August 31.

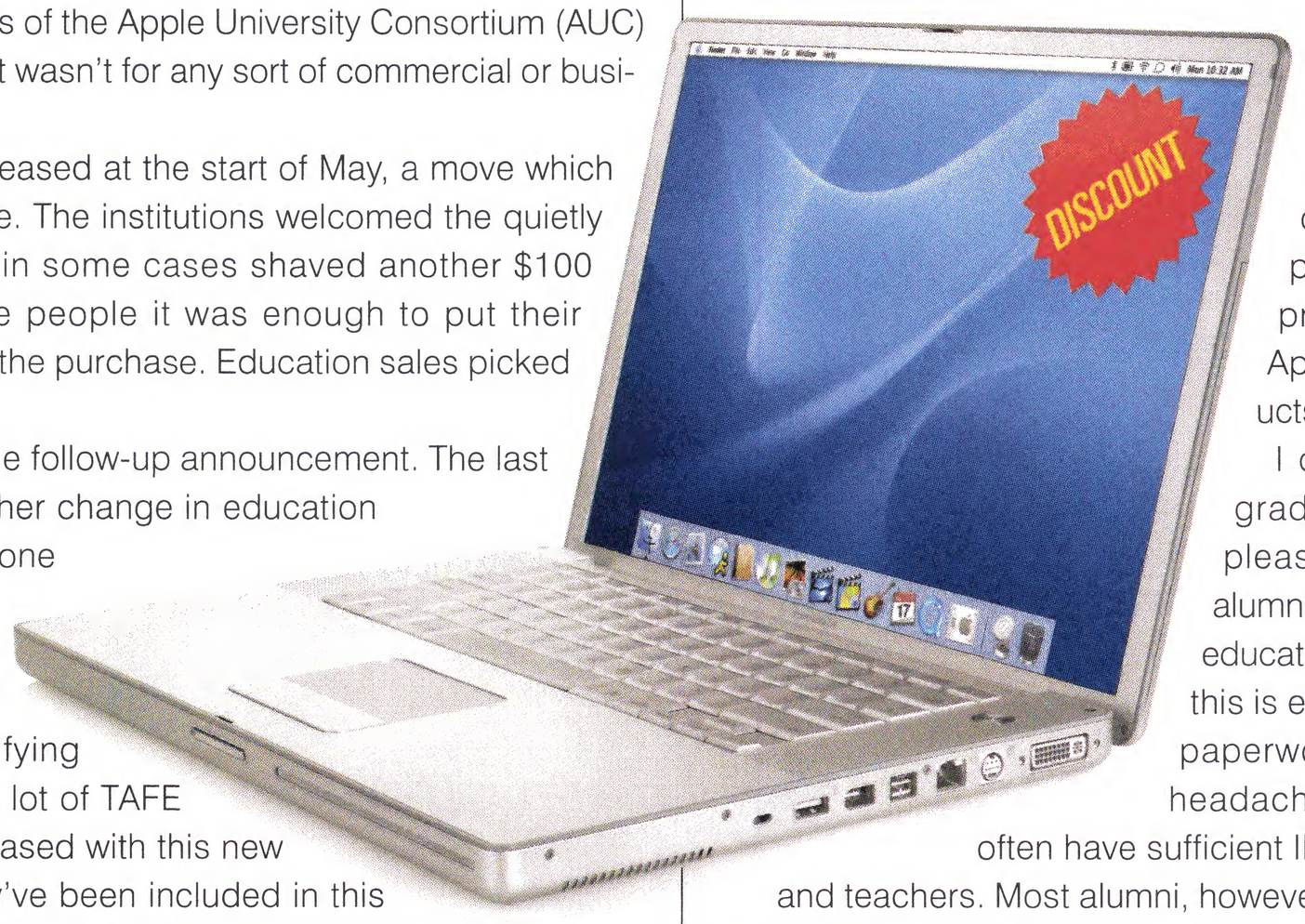
AN not U

THE education market is an important part of Apple's business. This has always been the case: the simplicity and elegance of Apple's products enhance their suitability in educational environments. This magazine has an entire column dedicated to the education market.

To embrace this market, Apple offers qualifying customers a number of benefits not available to regular customers. These include an automatic discount of about six per cent and a bonus three-year warranty called Tricare. Over the last few years Apple has opened up the definition for education customers to include more and more people. The benefits are not just for schools or universities, but also for employees of those institutions. University students are also eligible for the discounts and even degree-level graduates — alumni — of one of the members of the Apple University Consortium (AUC) could take advantage if it wasn't for any sort of commercial or business use.

The discount was increased at the start of May, a move which caught many by surprise. The institutions welcomed the quietly reduced prices, which in some cases shaved another $100 off the price. For some people it was enough to put their doubts aside and make the purchase. Education sales picked up slightly.

Not anticipated was the follow-up announcement. The last Friday of May saw another change in education benefits. However, this one was a mixed bag.



The first big change was the inclusion of TAFE students as qualifying education customers. A lot of TAFE students will be very pleased with this new price cut. Now that they've been included in this discount schedule, however, Apple will need to make room. It's not a special discount program if practically anyone has access to it.

Therefore, the second major change was the exclusion of AUC member alumni from education discount benefits altogether. Previously, if you had graduated with a Bachelor's degree or better from an Apple University Consortium member institution (see "Hot links") you would qualify to purchase Apple hardware or software at education pricing. Not anymore.

The final big change was the removal of the special three-year warranty for education individuals. Tricare remains for schools or universities that want to buy Apple gear, but students, teachers and educational institution staff are no longer eligible for the extended warranty. Instead they will receive the same one-year warranty the rest of us receive. In an attempt to combat this disappointment, Apple has said it will introduce special AppleCare Protection Plan products for the education market, though at the time of writing further details were not yet available.

Overall, are these changes good or bad? For business in June it was super. Alumni raced in to get the discount and extended warranty while they still could. Students and teachers raced to get their new Apple hardware while it still came with Tricare. Apple Education Centres — Apple resellers authorised to handle education agency sales — were run off their feet with the masses of paperwork required to process each education purchase. In July, I expect we'll see an influx of new TAFE student purchases, though the other education buyers will drop away.

As a salesperson, I found the extended warranty to be the most important selling point of all. I am disappointed that Apple removed it. If it were up to me, I think a wiser move would have been to reduce the discount and retain Tricare. On the other hand, if Apple can provide significantly reduced prices for its forthcoming AppleCare-for-Education products, there might be a little hope.

I don't mean to alienate the graduates out there, but I was pleased to see the exclusion of alumni from the definition of eligible education customers. My reason for this is entirely selfish: the necessary paperwork for this was always a headache. Students and teachers often have sufficient ID to prove they are students and teachers. Most alumni, however, have their degrees locked away in storage and are unwilling to fish them out — yet they still insist on the discount. When they do get it out, it takes about four attempts to photocopy the whole thing.

I don't really think alumni should have received the discount in the first place, but it was an excellent way of pushing someone over the line between thinking and purchasing.

I feel unsure about these changes to the education discount program. The introduction of TAFE students is very welcome. The exclusion of alumni is necessary. The elimination of Tricare for education individuals leaves a bland taste in my mouth. I will have to wait and see what warranty-extension product Apple will introduce. It has to be a better deal than Apple's competitors or students may start a revolution and buy Dells. Now that would be revolting.

The writer of this column is an Apple reseller.

Hot Links

auc.uow.edu.au
Apple University Consortium

THE DIY MAC 2004

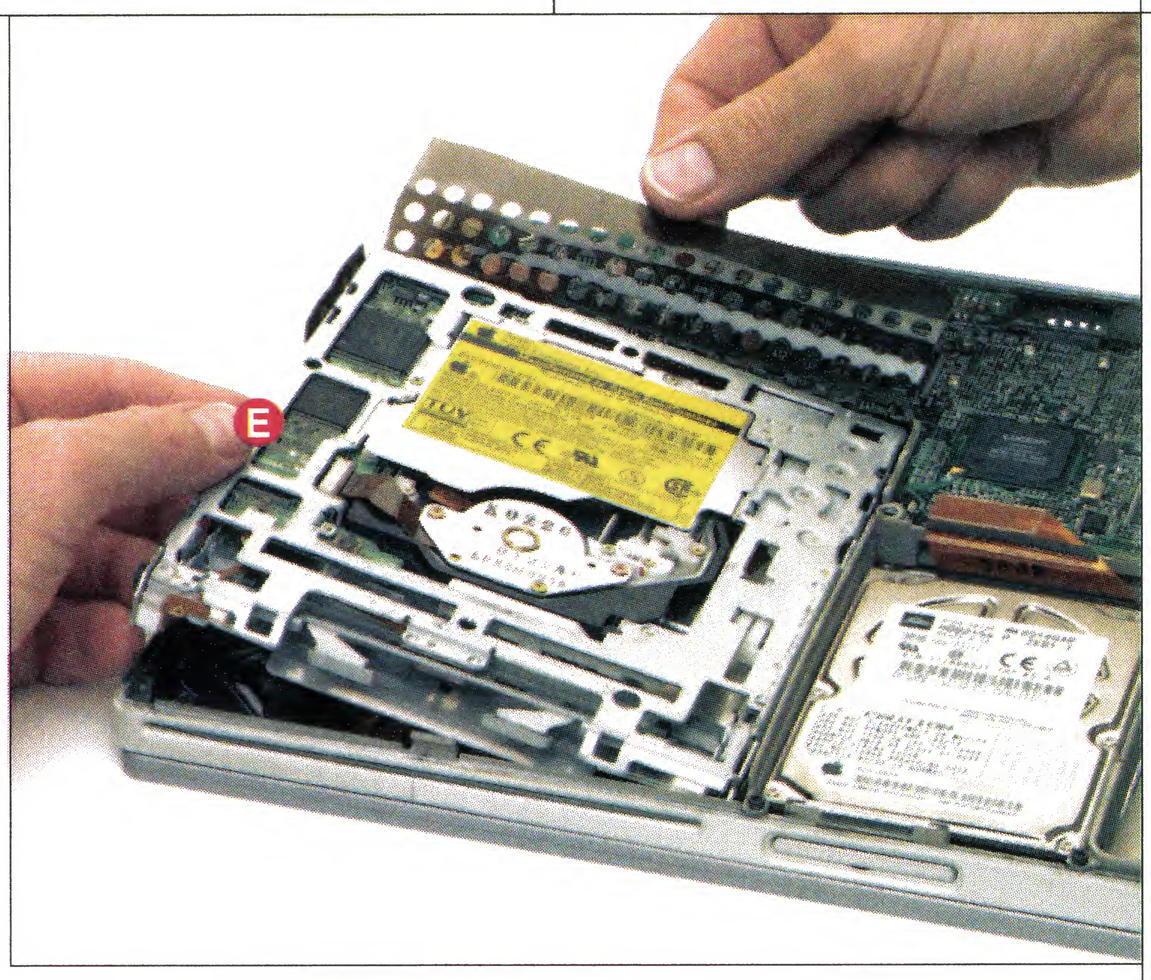
Maximise your hardware — and optimise your software

You bought an early Titanium PowerBook and then kicked yourself when the next model shipped with a SuperDrive. You're pining for a digital photo frame, but you don't have two grand to spare. You want to digitise and store your massive music collection and share it with everyone in your home, but you don't know where to start.

Your hardware dreams can come true. We'll show you how to upgrade, supersize, fine-tune, and expand a wide range of products. Just like last year's "DIY Mac", this guide has step-by-step instructions and easy-to-follow pictures that will make you a do-it-yourself expert in no time.

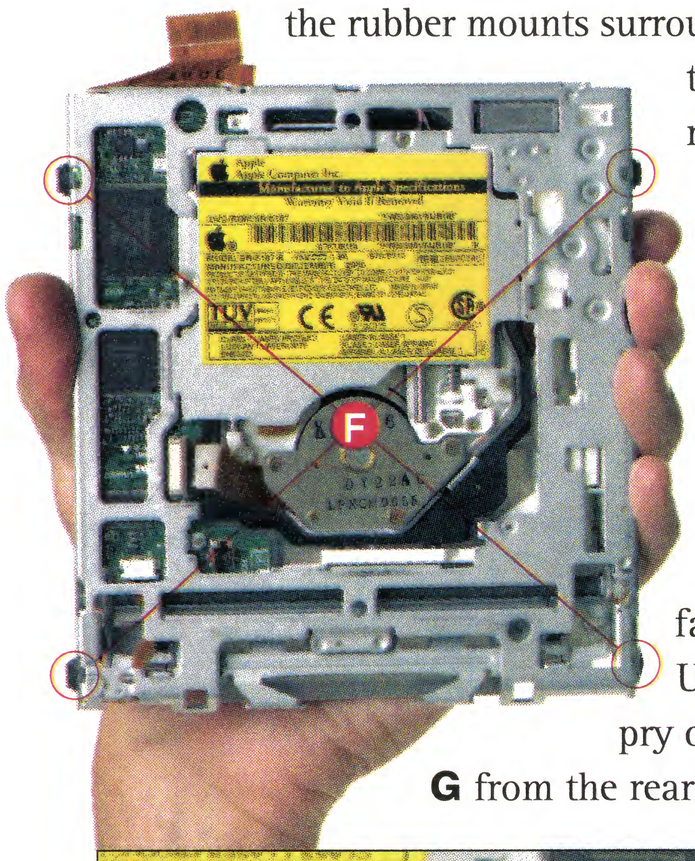
Contents

032 Add a SuperDrive to an original PowerBook G4 034 Accessorise your iSight 035 Turn your Mac into a picture frame 036 Build your own music server 037 Store more 038 Fax from your Mac

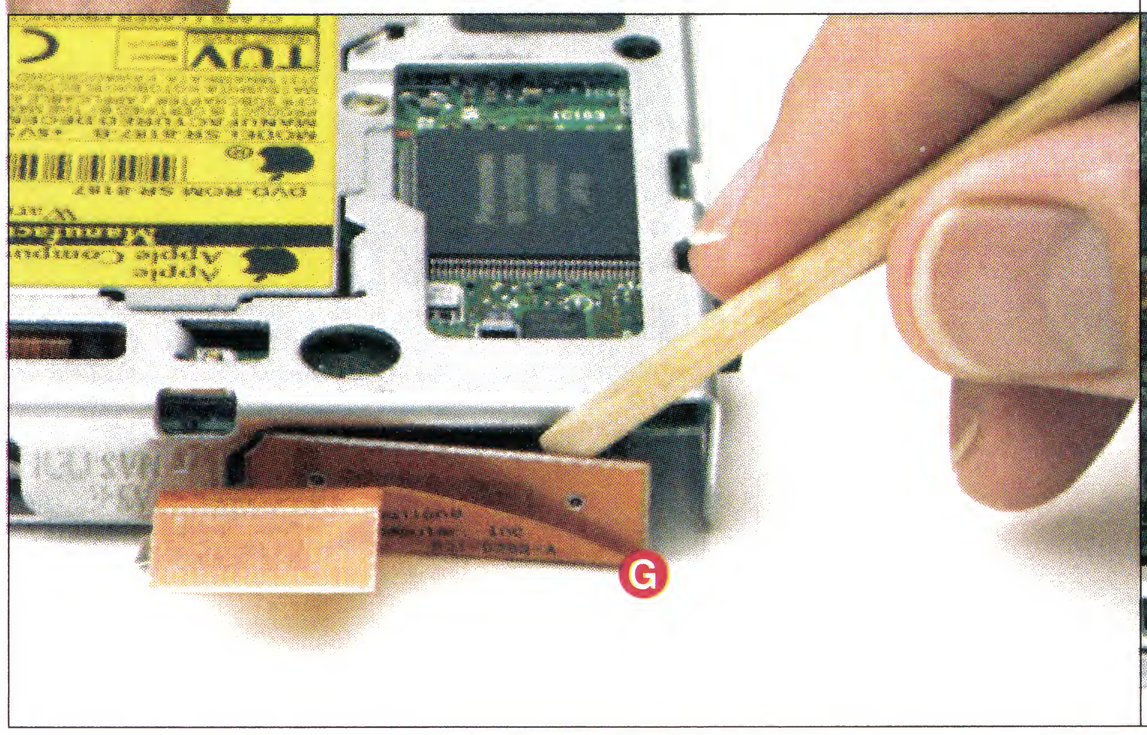


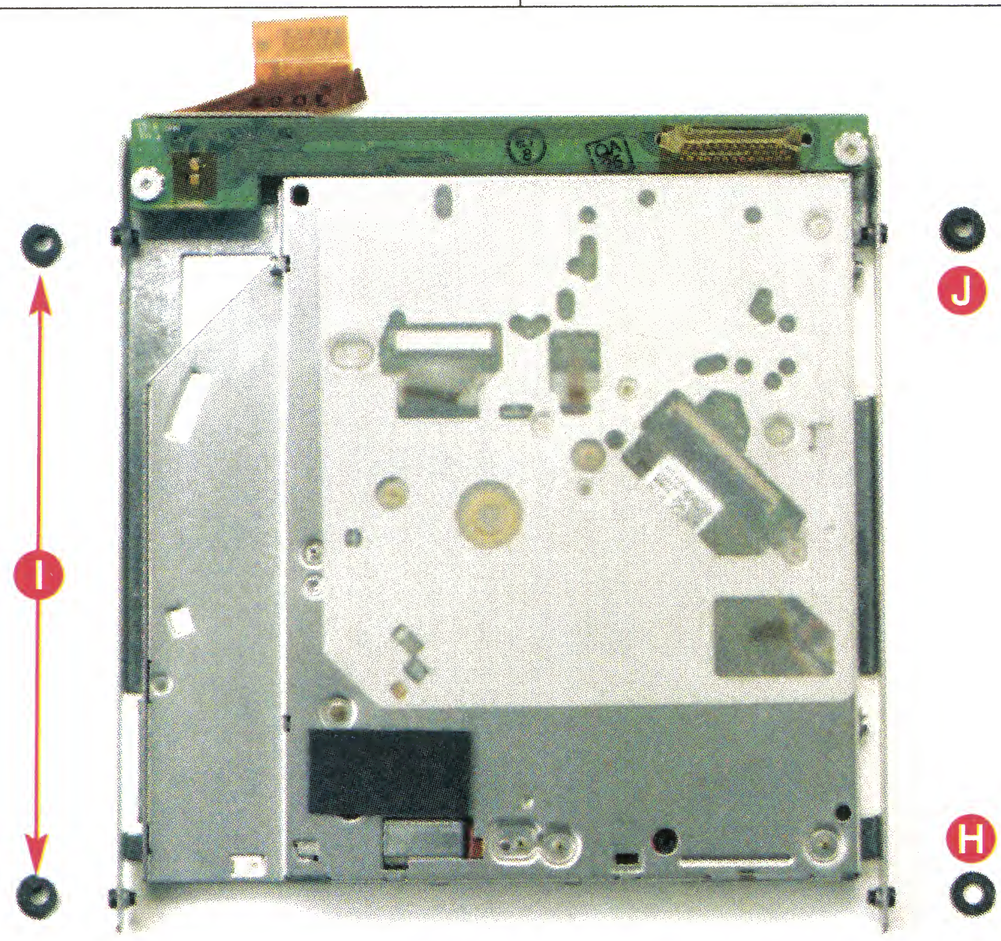
Step 3: Remove the optical drive. Grasp the leftmost metal edge of the optical drive **E**, and gently lift up until the left side of the drive releases from the PowerBook. Then pull to the left and remove the drive completely. Always hold the drive only by its metal edges. Never touch the green circuit board or connectors toward the rear.

Step 4: Remove the drive screws and the connector. Using a #8 Torx screwdriver, remove the four screws at the corners of both the left and right sides of the optical drive **F**. As you do so, take care to note the shape and position of the rubber mounts surrounding the Torx screws. While the screws are identical, these rubber mounts aren't, and it's important that you install them on the replacement drive in the exact same location and orientation. If all four rubber mounts aren't on the drive, look inside the PowerBook to locate any that may have fallen off.



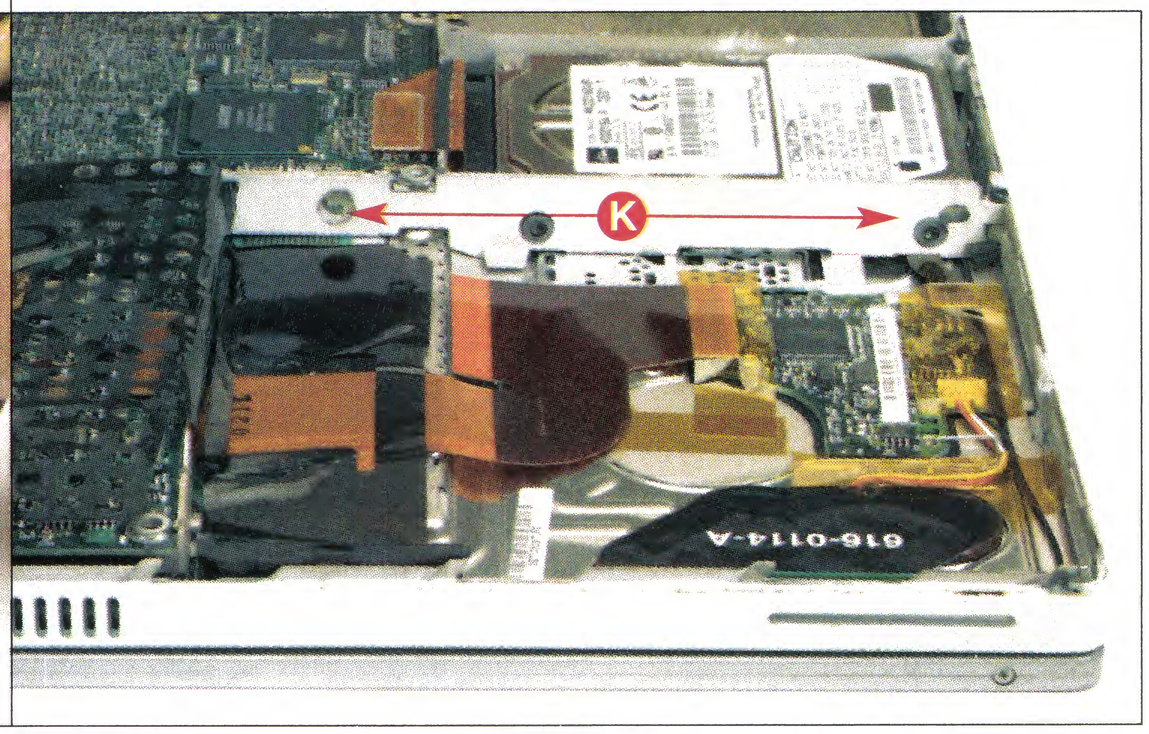
Using a probe tool, carefully pry off the optical-drive connector **G** from the rear of the optical drive.





Step 5: Attach the connector, screws, and rubber mounts to the new drive. Now take your replacement drive, and attach the optical-drive connector securely to the rear of the replacement drive (in the same location as the drive you just removed it from). The connector is keyed to prevent it from attaching incorrectly, so if it doesn't fit, don't force it. Then use the #8 Torx screwdriver to attach the four screws at the corners of both the left and right sides of the replacement optical drive. Now place the rubber mounts on the correct screws – otherwise the bottom case won't close properly and the drive won't align with the slot on the front of the case. Lay the optical drive flat in front of you, with the connector at the left rear. Place the flat, circular rubber mount on the front right-side Torx screw **H**. This leaves you with three rubber mounts, two of which are identical. Place these on the left-side Torx screws, with the wider portion flush against the metal edge, and the half-moon shape facing up **I**. The remaining rubber mount goes around the rear right-side Torx screw, with the wider portion flush against the metal edge **J**.

Step 6: Install the new drive. Flip up the black plastic shield so that it's out of the way, and then carefully guide the two rubber mounts on the right side of the optical drive into the receiving holes on the frame that separates the optical drive and the internal hard drive **K**.



TURN YOUR MAC INTO A PICTURE FRAME

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Shadow-box frame
- Glue gun
- Mat board
- Hand drill or drill press
- Small Phillips screwdriver
- #6 and #8 Torx screwdrivers
- Needle-nose pliers

Hot Links

www.ambrosiasoftware.com
Get Eclipse for OS 9
homepage.mac.com/sysop/PhotoAlbum3.html
Detailed instructions for dismantling laptops
www.powerbookmedic.com
Instructions for recent models

DO you ever get tired of looking at the same framed photos every day? If you have an old laptop – perhaps one with a broken CD drive or one that's too slow to run the latest processor-heavy applications – you can put it to use around your house as a digital picture frame. You'll get a rotating display of your favourite digital photos, which will be a conversation piece for visitors, but you'll still have a fully functional Mac should you need one in a pinch.

The idea is simple: you strip down an old laptop to its bare essentials, glue the pieces into a frame that fits your home decor, and then activate a screen saver that rotates through a collection of photos. I used a beat-up 14-inch iBook, but any older PowerBook or iBook running OS 9 or OS X will do.

First a word of caution: Although the process of turning your Mac into a framed photo is relatively straightforward, it's not for the faint of heart. It requires that you completely dismantle your laptop – that means removing dozens of screws, prying apart the case, and detaching and reattaching wires from the logic board. If you're not willing to lose your laptop forever should something go wrong, think twice before attempting this project.

Step 1: Set up the software. Before you crack open your laptop, load the photos you want to use onto the computer, set up screen-saver software (either OS X's built-in screen saver or Ambrosia Software's Eclipse for OS 9 – see "Hot links"), and adjust your Energy Saver preferences so the computer won't put itself to sleep. When you're done, shut down the computer, unplug the power supply, and take out the battery.

Step 2: Take apart your Mac. Dismantling your laptop is the hardest part of the conversion process. Make sure you have a large, level space to work on. From the bottom of the laptop, remove everything but the logic board (including all attached wires and circuits), the hard drive, the fan, and the speakers.

You'll also need to remove the LCD screen from the top of the laptop. Be sure to unthread any cables from the metal hinge and surrounding brackets before removing them. There are step-by-step dismantling instructions for PowerBook G3s and 400MHz PowerBook G4s available online (see "Hot links"). For the Titanium PowerBook or a newer iBook, I highly recommend the Take Apart Repair manuals, which you can download from PowerBook Medic (see "Hot links").

Step 3: Assemble the picture frame. Once you've fully dismantled the laptop, you're ready to assemble your picture frame. For this project, you'll need an extra thick picture frame called a shadow box. Look for one that's slightly larger than your screen – so there's room to add a decorative mat around it – and at least 4cm thick. You'll need to drill several holes in the back of the frame: one to provide access to the AC power cord, one to provide access to the USB ports, one below the fan to help blow hot air away from the logic board, and at least two others to encourage air circulation.

Using your glue gun, attach the logic board, speakers, and hard drive onto the inside back panel of the frame (as shown at left). Be sure to position the fan over the appropriate hole. Glue the mat – which should be cut to the exact size of the shadow box – onto the front of the LCD screen. Finally, plug in your power supply (and a mouse if desired), turn on your computer, assemble the picture frame, and enjoy. ● *Kelly Lunsford*

BUILD YOUR OWN MUSIC SERVER

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

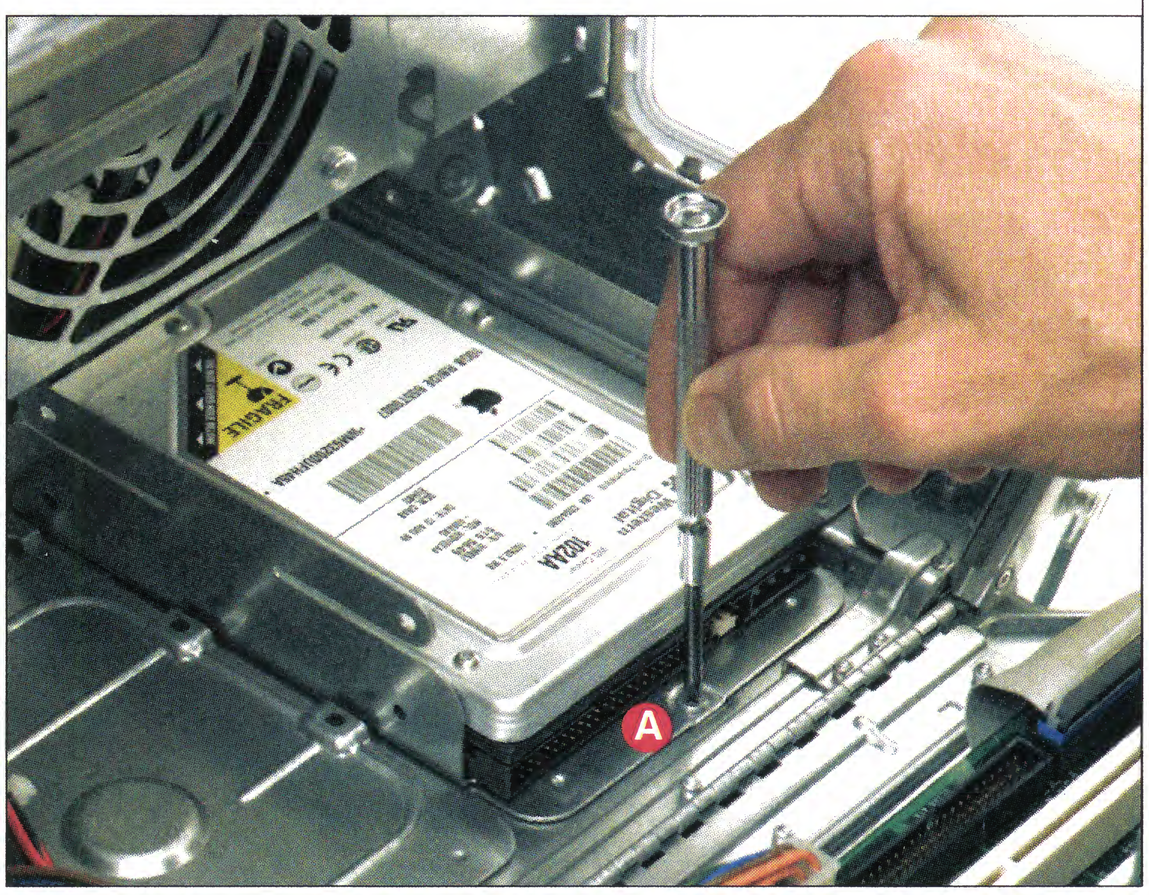
- Second internal hard drive
- PCI host adapter card (optional)
- Phillips screwdriver
- Ethernet network
- Apple's iTunes

YOUR family members were happy when you networked all the Macs in the house. Now they want to join their music into one large iTunes library that everyone can access and add to. Building a music server isn't difficult or expensive. Install a larger hard drive in your server Mac (we used a Power Mac G4), move music to it, and share the library. Here's how.

Step 1: Buy a second hard drive. The cheapest way to add lots of storage to your G4 is to buy a second internal 3.5-inch IDE drive. Choose one with 7200 rpm and 8MB of cache. Western Digital, Maxtor, and Hitachi all make drives that meet these specifications. If you have a pre–mirrored-drive-door G4 and you want a second drive that's larger than 128GB, you'll also have to add a PCI host adapter card, such as Sonnet's Tempo ATA133 (distributed in Australia by Memory Solutions 03 9645 3806 or MacSense 02 9319 2288).

Step 2: Prepare to install the drive. Turn off and unplug your Mac. Place it on a flat, clean surface and open the access door. Touch a metal surface in the computer to discharge static electricity. Disconnect the power and IDE cables from the hard drive. Using a Phillips screwdriver, remove the single screw that holds the drive bracket in place **A**. Pull the bracket containing your drive up and out of the Mac.

Step 3: Set the drive jumpers. Check the label on the bottom or the edge of your existing hard drive. If you have a Western Digital or Quantum drive, set its jumpers to Master. Other drive brands should be set correctly by default. To reset the



jumper, slide it to the Master position. Your new drive's jumper should already be in the slave position, but confirm that by checking the drive's instructions and then verifying that the jumpers on your second drive are in the correct positions for slave operation **B**.

Step 4: Connect the new drive. Slide the new drive on top of the old one in the bracket, so that the right side of the drive aligns with the bracket, and fasten the drive to the bracket.

When the drive is in place, screw the left side to the bracket. Now you're ready to return the drive bracket to the Mac. Connect the power cable to your lower drive, and screw the bracket back into place. Plug the IDE cable into the lower drive, and then plug the available ribbon connector to the new drive. Make sure the connectors fit snugly. Close and reconnect your Mac.

Step 5: Format and prepare the new drive. Start up your Mac and open Applications: Utilities: Disk Utility. Your new, unformatted drive should appear in the left pane. If it doesn't, shut down the Mac and make sure that the jumpers are set correctly, and that all cables are tightly and completely connected.

In Disk Utility, click on the new drive and then on the Erase tab. Leave Mac OS X Extended selected. Click on Erase. Then click on Erase again.

To allow access to your music library, the new drive's files must be available to everyone who will be importing music, or copying it from the library. You need to override the permissions that normally prevent multiple users of the same Mac from modifying the same files. Select the drive and press ⌘-I. Click on Ownership & Permissions and then select the Ignore Ownership On This Volume option.

Step 6: Copy your music. If your library is stored on this Mac's startup disk, open Users: user name: Music: iTunes, where user name is your user name. Copy the iTunes Music folder to the new drive. If you store your music library elsewhere, connect to that Mac over a network and then copy the library to the music server Mac.

Open iTunes and choose iTunes: Preferences. Click on the Advanced icon. Click on Change and go to the iTunes Music folder on the new hard drive. Select the Copy Files To iTunes Music Folder When Adding To Library option, and then close Preferences. iTunes will ask if you want to move and rename files

in the new library. Click on No. Quit iTunes. Copy the iTunes 4 Music Library file from your iTunes folder to Users: Shared. Make an alias of the file, and copy it to user name: Music: iTunes. Delete the original iTunes 4 Music Library file, and delete the word alias from the alias file name.

To give another user of this Mac access to the library, log in as a different user. Launch iTunes and change the library location to your new hard drive. Quit iTunes. Make an alias of the iTunes 4 Music Library file in the Shared folder, and replace this user's own music library file with the alias (remember to delete alias from the file name). Open iTunes. This user now has access to your shared library and can add files or playlists to it. If iTunes tells you that the user doesn't have sufficient privileges to open the library file, log in as yourself, select the shared library, press ⌘-I, and change Ownership & Permissions for Others to Read & Write.

Step 7: Play shared music. To give everyone access to the music server from their own Macs, open iTunes: Preferences on the server Mac. Click on the Sharing tab and select either your library or individual playlists to share. By selecting the Look For Shared Music option in their own copies of iTunes, your whole family can play the music you've shared. ● *Shelly Brisbin*

STORE MORE

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

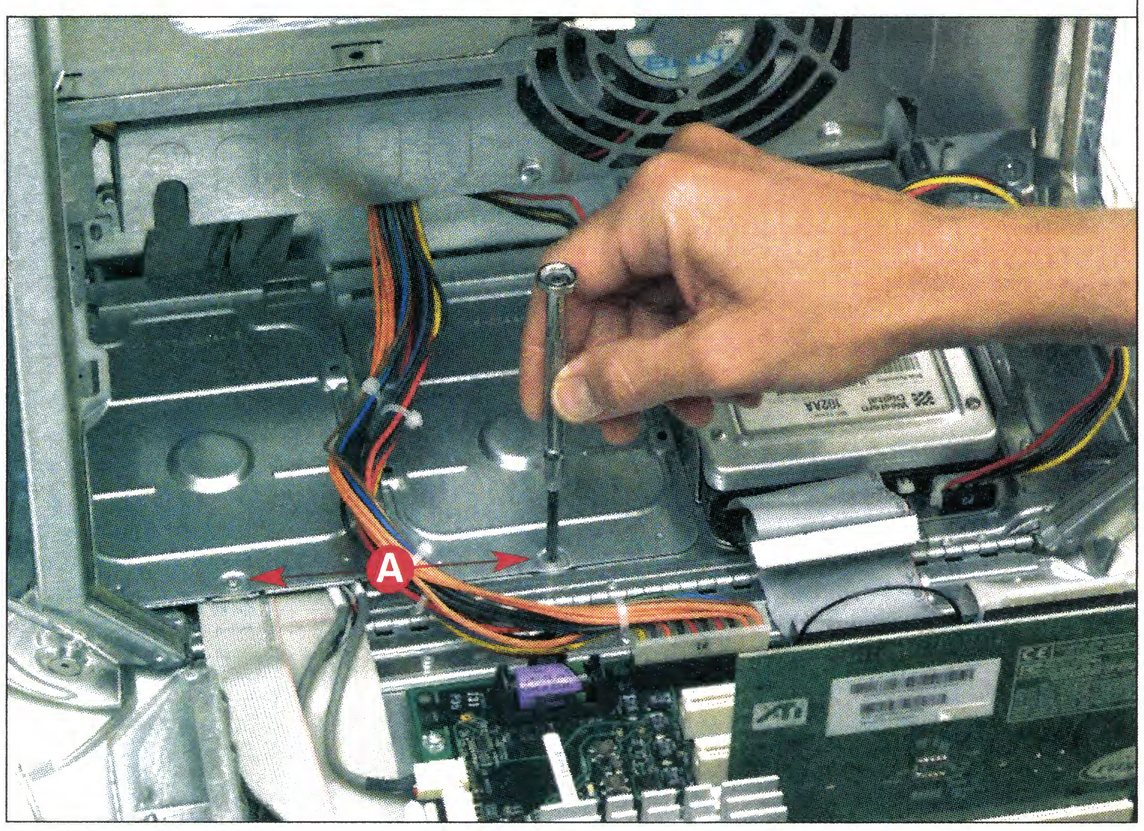
- **PCI ATA/133 RAID controller card**
- **Two ATA drives of the same size**
- **Magnetised Phillips screwdriver**
- **Hard-drive power splitter**

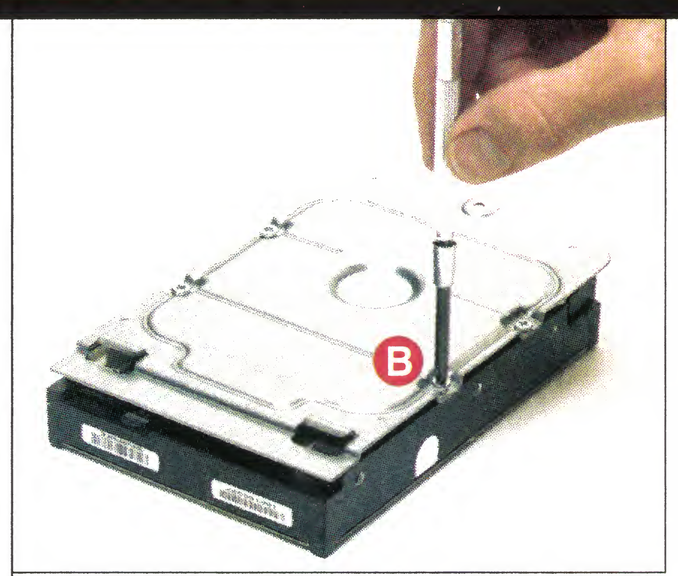
WHEN you work with a lot of large files, such as video or audio, you run out of hard-drive space. You also need fast hard-drive access. Make your life easier with a fast hardware RAID drive set. You can add one to a pre–mirrored-drive-door Power Mac G4 in less than ten minutes.

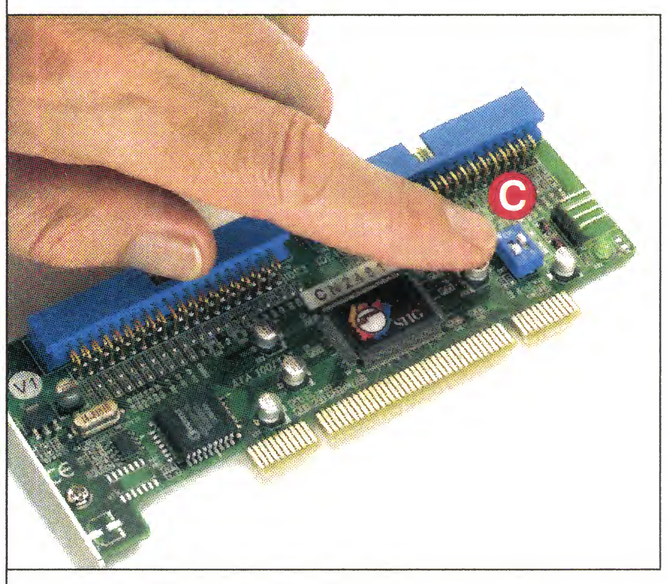
You'll need a PCI ATA/133 RAID controller card (from SIIG, Acard, or Sonnet) and two ATA drives of the same size (some cards let you join four equal-size drives into a RAID). Most PCI ATA/133 cards support drives as large as 250GB each.

While you can format two drives as one RAID in OS X's Disk Utility, a hardware RAID gives you a faster set of drives. All hardware RAID cards offer RAID 0, also called striping, which splits the data flow to both drives, making the RAID almost twice as fast as a single drive. Some cards also have RAID 1, called mirroring, which duplicates your data on both drives. You get no speed improvement, but your data is immediately backed up.

To install the card and drives in your Power Mac, you'll need a magnetised Phillips screwdriver and a hard-drive power splitter (available at Dick Smith, Tandy and other electronics stores).







Before you unplug your computer, touch the metal on your computer's PCI slots to discharge static electricity. Then unplug the computer and open the side door.

On the bottom of the enclosure, you'll see your computer's internal drive. To the left of the boot drive, you'll see two drive carrier sleds screwed to the carriage. Unscrew these sleds **A** and lift them out.

Take your hard drives and set both of their jumpers to Master. Then screw the hard drives to the drive sleds **B**. Once attached, return the drive sleds to their respective slots and secure each with a screw.

The PCI ATA controller card has DIP switches on the circuit board to turn the RAID function on or off. Set it to On (the picture shows the setting for a SIIG card) **C**.

Some cards have settings for RAID 0 and RAID 1. Once you've set the DIP switches, plug the card into one of your available PCI ports and secure it with the small slot screw.

Attach two ATA cables to the card. Run the cables to each drive. Attach the drive at the Master position (the end of the ribbon). Lightly fold the ribbon so it bends into a 90-degree angle about one inch from the PCI card connection – this way, the ATA ribbons won't block the airflow to the computer's main fan.

You'll find an open power connection hanging in the centre of the computer. Use the power splitter to send power to both drives.

Close the Power Mac case carefully. Plug in the power and start up the computer. Open Disk Utility. Format the new drive set and assign it a new name. Your RAID is now ready to store files. ● *Anton Linecker*

FAX FROM YOUR MAC

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A Mac running Panther
- A Scanner

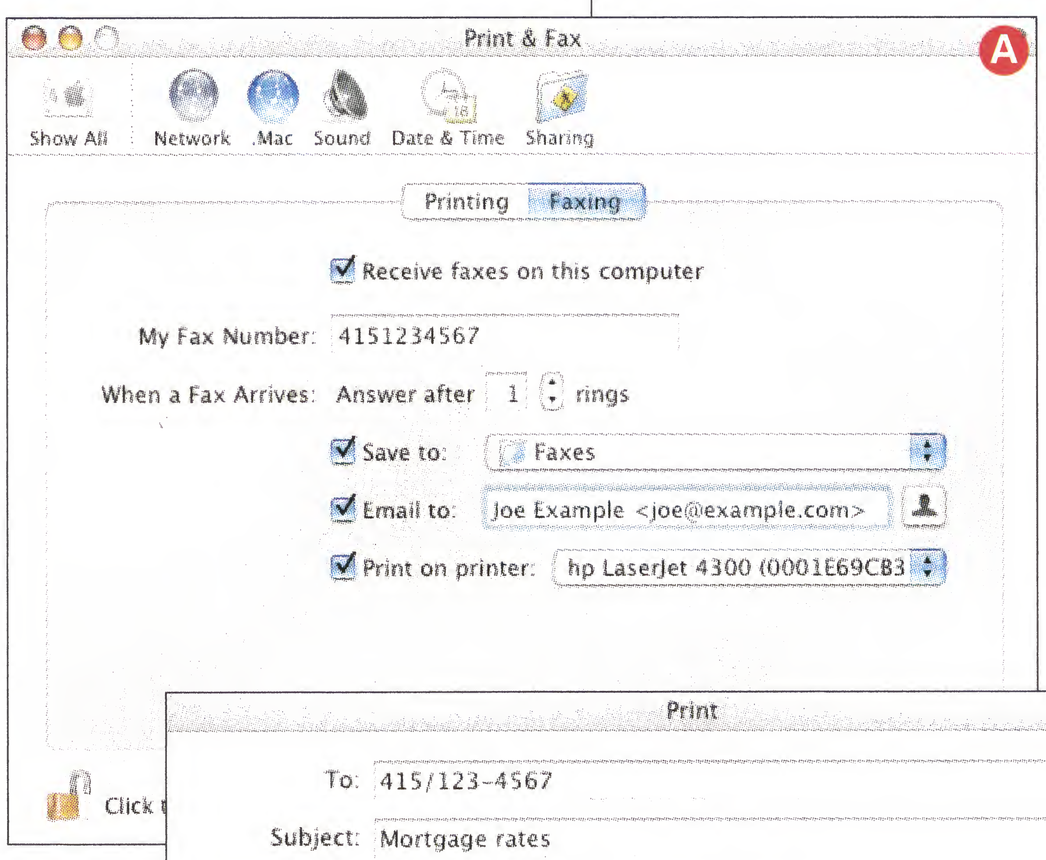
Hot Links

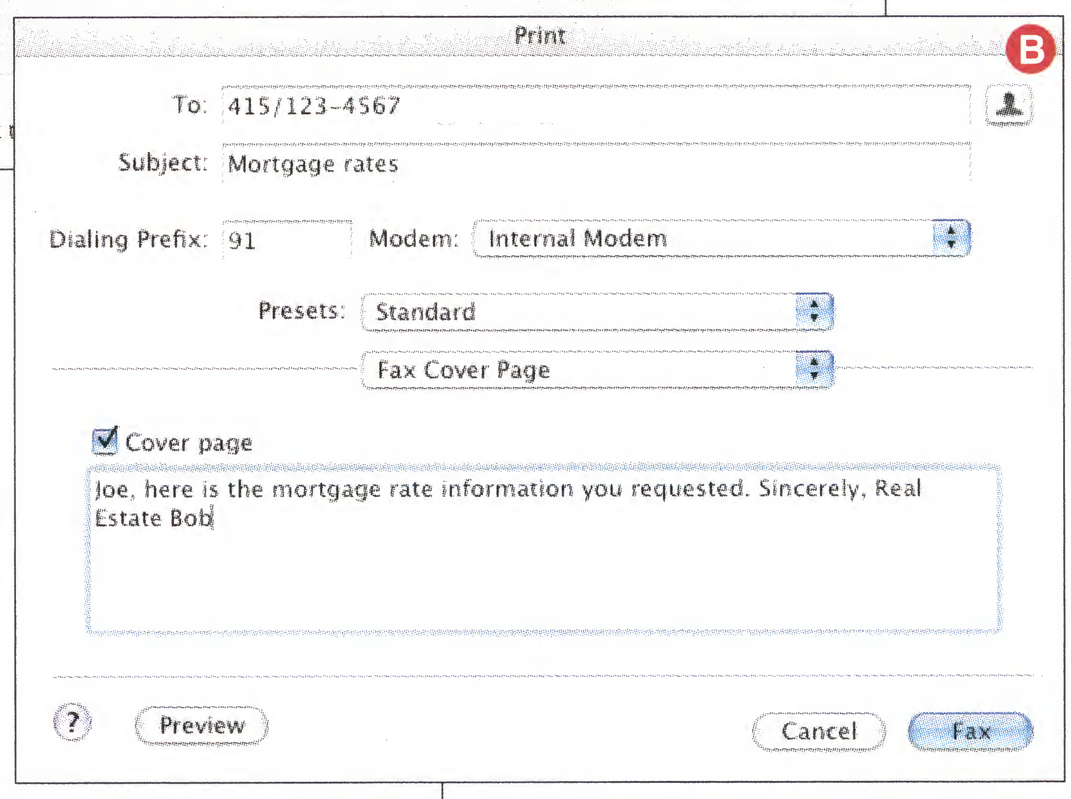
www.hamrick.com
VueScan
www.smileonmymac.com/pagesender/index.html
Page Sender
www.rwts.com.au/FaxEmailHelper
FaxEmail Helper

WHY use your bulky, outdated, and probably cranky fax machine to send faxes? You can fax directly from your Mac with just a few tools: a scanner, a modem, a phone line, and the faxing capability built into Panther (OS X 10.3). This feature is limited, but once you work around its little issues, it comes in handy.

Setup. To use your Mac as a fax machine, you'll need an internal or external modem. Because faxing over IP is not yet feasible, you must use a standard phone line. You'll also need a scanner that's compatible with your Mac running Panther.

Open System Preferences and enable your modem in the Network preference pane. Click on Apply Now. Go to the Print & Fax preference pane **A**, also in System Preferences, and under the Faxing tab, select the Receive Faxes On This Computer option. Fill in the necessary information, and set options for what your Mac will do when you receive a fax: save the fax to a certain folder, send an e-mail alerting you to the fax, or print the fax.





You may want to turn up the sound on your Mac so you can hear the modem sounds as you send faxes (the modem doesn't make sound while receiving a fax).

Finally and obviously, make sure your phone line is plugged into your Mac and your phone jack, even if you usually use that phone line for DSL.

Send faxes. Let's say you want to fax your clients a paper sketch that you drew while talking to them on the phone minutes ago. First, make it digital. Scan the document using your scanner's included software, Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, or Hamrick Software's VueScan (see "Hot links"). Note that Apple's ImageCapture supports only Epson scanners. For the best-quality fax, scan in black and white, and at no higher than 200 dpi (the highest resolution of many fax machines). If your scanner software supports it, save the scanned file in PDF.

Open the scanned PDF file in Preview (in the Applications folder). Then go to File: Print and click on the Fax button at the bottom of the dialog box. In the dialog box that appears **B**, enter the destination fax number in the To field, or click on the person icon next to the To field to get the number from Address Book. (Panther won't pull fax numbers from any other contact manager.)

Be careful not to press the return key while you're typing in this field – the fax will send if you do. Now, click on the Fax button.

Panther won't tell you when your fax has been sent, but in ten seconds or so, a new item, called Internal Modem, will appear in your Dock. This item shows you the fax's status. You should also hear the modem's characteristic sound.

Receive faxes. To receive faxes while you're away from your Mac, go to the Energy Saver preference pane and make sure it's set to never go to sleep. However, you must keep your phone line connected to your Mac.

The bad news is that when you receive a fax, Panther's fax feature won't bring up an alert, nor will you hear your modem receive the fax. Panther only puts the fax in whatever folder you selected upon setup. If you've set it to print the fax automatically or send you an e-mail, that's all the alert you'll get.

There is a workaround. Just go to the Finder, locate the folder where you store faxes, control-click on it, and choose Enable Folder Actions. Control-click on it again, and select Attach A Folder Action. In the resulting window, choose Add – New Item Alert.scpt.

You've got choices. If you want more from Panther's built-in faxing feature, SmileOnMyMac's Page Sender 3.2 (see "Hot links") organises your faxes in an interface resembling Apple's Mail, lets you run an AppleScript in response to an incoming fax, and offers many other nifty preferences. If you're having problems with Panther sending you e-mail when you receive a fax, try Real World Technology Solutions' free FaxEmailHelper 1.2 (see "Hot links"). ● *Jennifer Berger*

By Dan Warne.

Keeping the nasties at bay

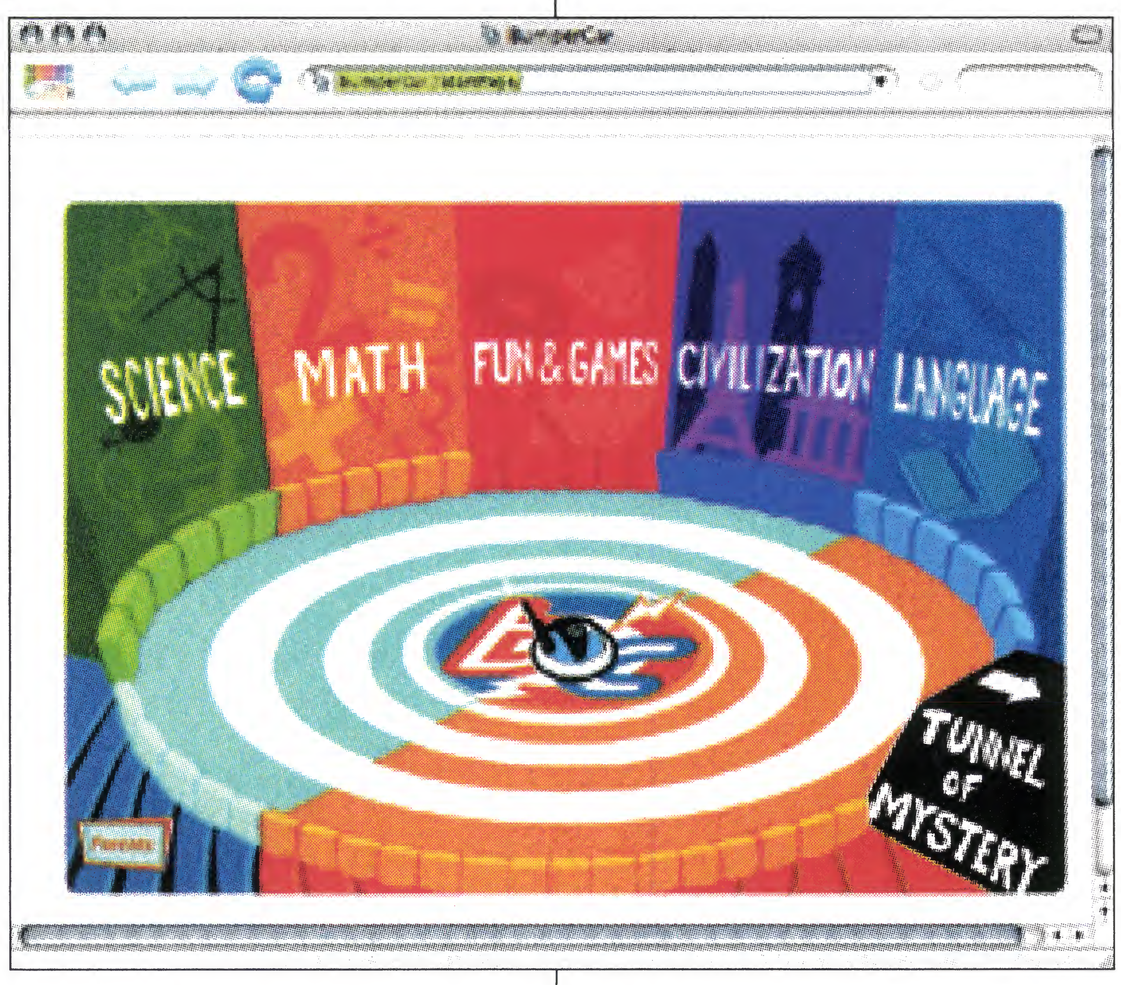
JOHN St. Claire, father of two, was taken by surprise when his kids tried to access The White House web site. Instead of finding an explanation on why America was going to war with Iraq, they instead found themselves faced with a scantily-clad porn star.

They'd typed whitehouse.com, forgetting to use the ".gov" domain, and fallen into a scam that pornsters have been exploiting for years: porn sites with names deliberately similar to legitimate sites.

The kids were falling over themselves with giggles, but John said he was glad he'd been there to intervene. From that point onwards, he took nothing for granted. Least of all the *Bananas in Pyjamas* web site.

On the other hand, while John would probably never admit it, he's quite a fan of nice-tits.org, and wouldn't mind a bit if his kids visited it often. It's an ornithologist's site. Not only do the Brits have a keen sense of the practical joke, they have a whole web site dedicated to watching the small brown bird known as the tit.

John, like many other parents, found himself on the lookout for software that would shield his youngsters from the darker side of the internet without limiting their opportunities for education (because, let's face it, every man, woman and child has some legitimate interest in tits).



One solution for the Mac is Bumper Car ($80 from Try and Byte, 02 9906 5227; a free demo is also available, see "Hot links"), a web browser that's built on Safari's excellent rendering engine, with a range of added features to help parents control their kids' web surfing.

It gets its name from the cute dodgem-car game it uses as its homepage navigation interface, that allows kids to explore educational web sites in different categories, or go down the "tunnel of mystery" to get a random site. Out of the box, Bumper Car is very cautious about what your kids can see. Initially, it even blocks Google, though authorising it is just an administrator's password away.

It dovetails well with OS X's multi-user system: the manual recommends that parents create non-administrative accounts for their kids using the OS X users panel, removing the ability to run Safari.

On the other hand, Bumper Car demonstrates just how difficult parental control software is to make. While it approaches the problem on many fronts, it's certainly not a set-and-forget system. As a parent, you'll need to be very involved in your child's web browsing — otherwise they're likely to become frustrated with how often they're blocked and give up altogether.

Hot Links

Freeverse.com/bumpercar
Download a trial version of BumperCar
mac.com/WebObjects/Tools.woa?destination=symantec
Free download of Norton Parental Control for .Mac members

Bumper Car's approaches include an in-built whitelist of kid-friendly sites that your kids will be able to visit, a blacklist which does the opposite (but comes blank by default), a content filter that can block pages based on words on the page, and a ratings filter that uses ratings published by the sites themselves.

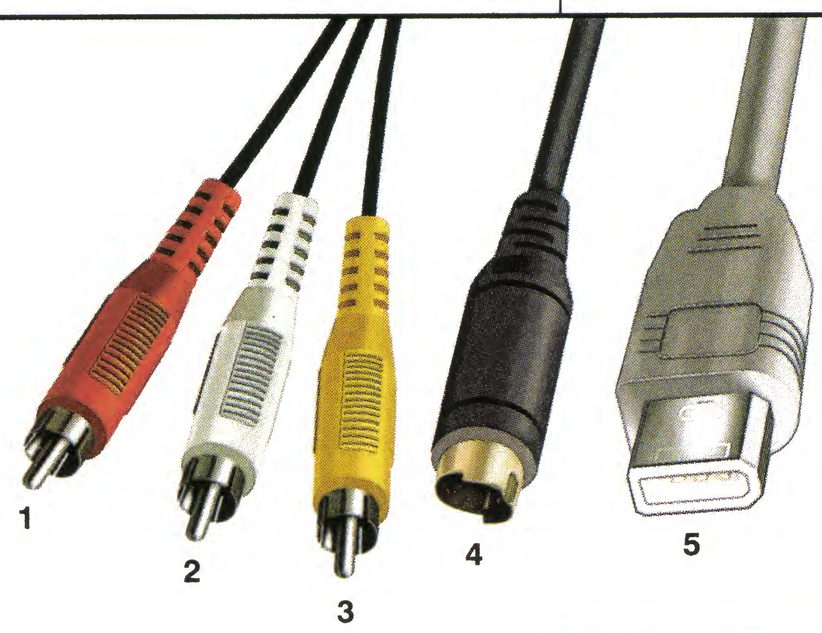
You may be wondering why it would use both a whitelist and a blacklist. The answer is whitelist flexibility. Essentially, if your child clicks a link on a whitelisted site, they'll be allowed through — even if the target site isn't whitelisted. The package's makers say the theory is that kid-friendly sites will only link to other kid-friendly sites. You can choose how many degrees of separation away from the original whitelisted site you want to allow. The blacklist, on the other hand, will never allow your kids to click a link through to a listed site.

On the downside, all of Bumper Car's approaches are flawed. Because of the ever-changing nature of the net, whitelists only work well if they are comprehensive to begin with, are updated often and don't have a bias towards sites in one country. These update services usually charge an annual subscription fee, and at this stage Bumper Car doesn't have a service provider for this. The help system does mention that its maker, Freeverse, plans to allow parents to upload their own Bumper Car whitelists and blacklists to share with other parents.

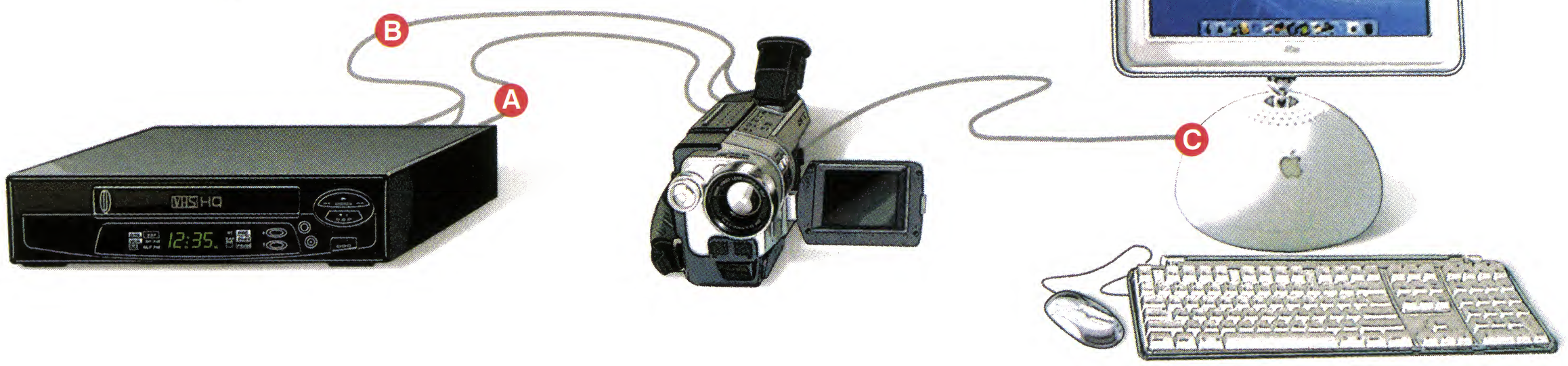
Blacklists are only really useful for blocking specific sites occasionally — not for blocking porn sites *en masse*. There's just too many of them. Content filtering will often cut out legitimate sites: nice-tits.org for one. As for site ratings, what's the chance that your friendly local smut merchant is going to go to the trouble of putting sales-limiting ratings on its site?

Bumper Car is best viewed as a tool to assist with looking after your kids while they're on the internet. "Monitor what your child is doing by placing the computer in a place that gets a fair amount of household traffic," advises Piquet Kenneally of East Kew, Victoria, father two young girls. "A parent/child relationship that is open is less likely to suffer from the subterfuge of 'I'm only looking for articles on starvation in third world countries, honest mum!' while the hard-disk whirrs away under the massive strain of a 2GB download."

Dan Warne is passionate about the state of broadband in Australia.



1. Audio (R)
2. Audio (L)
3. Composite Video
4. S-Video
5. FireWire



Making the connection

To import the footage from old videotapes into your Mac, you'll need a MiniDV camcorder with pass-through features or an analogue-to-digital converter. To set up your transfer station, connect your VCR's video output A to the video input of your camcorder or converter box. If your hardware supports an S-Video connection, use that instead of composite video.

Next, run audio cables from your VCR's audio outputs to the audio inputs of your camcorder or converter box B. Finally, connect the camcorder's or converter box's FireWire jack to the FireWire jack on your Mac C. If you're using a MiniDV camcorder to convert your video, you may need to adjust a menu setting to activate its pass-through features. Once everything is connected, turn on each device, open a new iMovie project, and begin importing your footage.

the data — you have to copy the entire tape before you can even begin importing footage — but it offers a significant advantage. When you're done, you'll have a complete MiniDV backup of your original tape. Because you have a digital backup of your footage, you can be more selective when importing scenes from your movie. If you decide you want to add more footage later, you can simply import it from the MiniDV tape rather than reconnect your entire transfer station.

If you don't own a MiniDV camcorder, your second option is to purchase an analogue-to-DV converter. (See the table "Divine conversions" on page 47, and also the review in Test drive, this issue.)

An extra hard drive. The final thing you'll need is a place to store your digital data. Digital video inhales disk space at a rate of about 200MB per minute. This means you'll need around 12GB of space for every hour of footage you import. If you don't have that much space to spare, consider purchasing an additional hard drive. My advice: think big. A 200GB external FireWire hard drive costs less than $500 and will give you enough room for hours of video. It also serves as an excellent archival medium for completed projects.

Step 2: Prepare for import.

Videotape is a relatively fragile medium. Any irregularity in temperature or reel tension can cause playback problems or, worse, damage the tape. So before you press the play button on your VCR and begin importing footage, make sure your videotape is in the best possible condition.

Acclimate your tapes. If you've stored your videotapes in an unusually hot or cold environment — such as an attic or an unheated closet — bring them into the room where you'll be working and let them sit for a few hours. Large swings in humidity or temperature can cause moisture to condense within a videocassette. Playing a tape in that state could damage it and your VCR.

Also avoid embarking on a video project if the weather is humid and the room you're working in isn't air-conditioned. In high humidity, videotape tends to adhere to a VCR's spinning heads. The extra friction can cause the tape and the heads to wear out prematurely.

Shuttle your tapes. Once you've acclimated a tape, fast-forward it to the end and then rewind it to the beginning. This process, called stacking, exercises the videocassette mechanism and restores tension on the tape reels, alleviating some of the problems with aging videotape.

Check your tracking. You're likely to run into tracking problems when working with aging videotapes and VCRs. These picture and sound distortions occur when the VCR's heads fail to read the critical control track located along one edge of the tape. Before you begin importing video, play a few minutes of your tape and adjust your VCR's tracking feature to optimise playback quality.

Step Three: Import your video.

You're now ready to begin the transfer process. Open iMovie and create a new project for your imported footage. By default, iMovie stores projects in the

In iMovie 4, you can adjust the beginning or ending of a clip simply by dragging its edges inward. Later, if you decide you want to regain some of that footage, you can pull the edges of the clip outward to restore them.

To remove a bad shot from the middle of a clip — or to edit clips in earlier versions of iMovie — drag the clip to iMovie's timeline, position the playhead at the beginning of the offending shot, and then choose Split Video Clip At Playhead from the Edit menu, or press ⌘-T. (This command is also useful for breaking up one long clip into several smaller ones.) Next, move the playhead to the last frame you want to remove and choose the command again. You should now have a single clip that contains just the unwanted shot. To send it to the cutting room floor, select it and press the delete key. Deleted scenes remain in the Trash until you empty it. However, if you think you might need the cut scene later, switch back to the clip viewer (⌘-E) and drag the scene to an empty spot in the Clips pane instead of deleting it.

Add a soundtrack. Let's face it: most home videos sound as though they'd been recorded through a tin can. You can fix that by adding a new soundtrack that complements the action.

If your video's original sound consisted of nothing but wind and room noise, consider removing the sound completely and playing a song from your iTunes library instead. To mute an entire video track in iMovie, deselect the box to the right of the video track in iMovie's timeline. To mute or adjust the volume of individual clips, select the clips in the timeline and then reposition the volume slider. (see "Create your own music video" on page 48).

Narration and commentary add a wonderful historical perspective to your old home videos. To record narration, use iMovie's Audio pane (see the sidebar "Sound practices"). If your movie features kids who are teenagers today, for example, you might want to have them comment on the footage as it plays. Let them talk about their memories of the event and about what went on behind the scenes. You could also narrate the video yourself, talking about what it was like taking a couple of colicky kids on a cross-country road trip.

Sprinkle in photos. Do you have some old photos of the same event you captured on videotape? Why not add these shots to your video footage to help expand the narrative? To use old photos, scan them into your Mac, add them to iPhoto, and then import them into iMovie from the Photos pane. You can give your photos a sense of motion by using iMovie's Ken Burns effect, which mimics the documentary trick of slowly panning across a photo while zooming in or out.

Old photos can also provide a nice backdrop for iMovie titles or iDVD menus. If you have a lot of photos that complement the video, you might want to include them on the DVD as a slide show.

Add titles and transitions. Titles and transitions give your movie professional polish and help ease viewers between disjointed scenes. If you come across dialogue that's hard to understand, create subtitles. To make sure your titles won't get cut off when played on a television, deselect the QT Margins option in iMovie's Titles pane.

Create chapter markers. For videos that are more than a few minutes long, consider adding chapter markers via iMovie's iDVD pane. Later on, when you go to burn your DVD, iDVD will use these chapter markers to create a submenu that lets viewers quickly jump to specific scenes (see the screenshot "What's on the menu?").

Add a chapter marker whenever a key scene begins. For a vacation video, you might add a marker at the beginning of each new destination. For a video that presents several years' worth of birthday parties, add a marker (and a title) at the beginning of each party. Your final DVD will be easier to navigate, and it will be more enjoyable to watch multiple times.

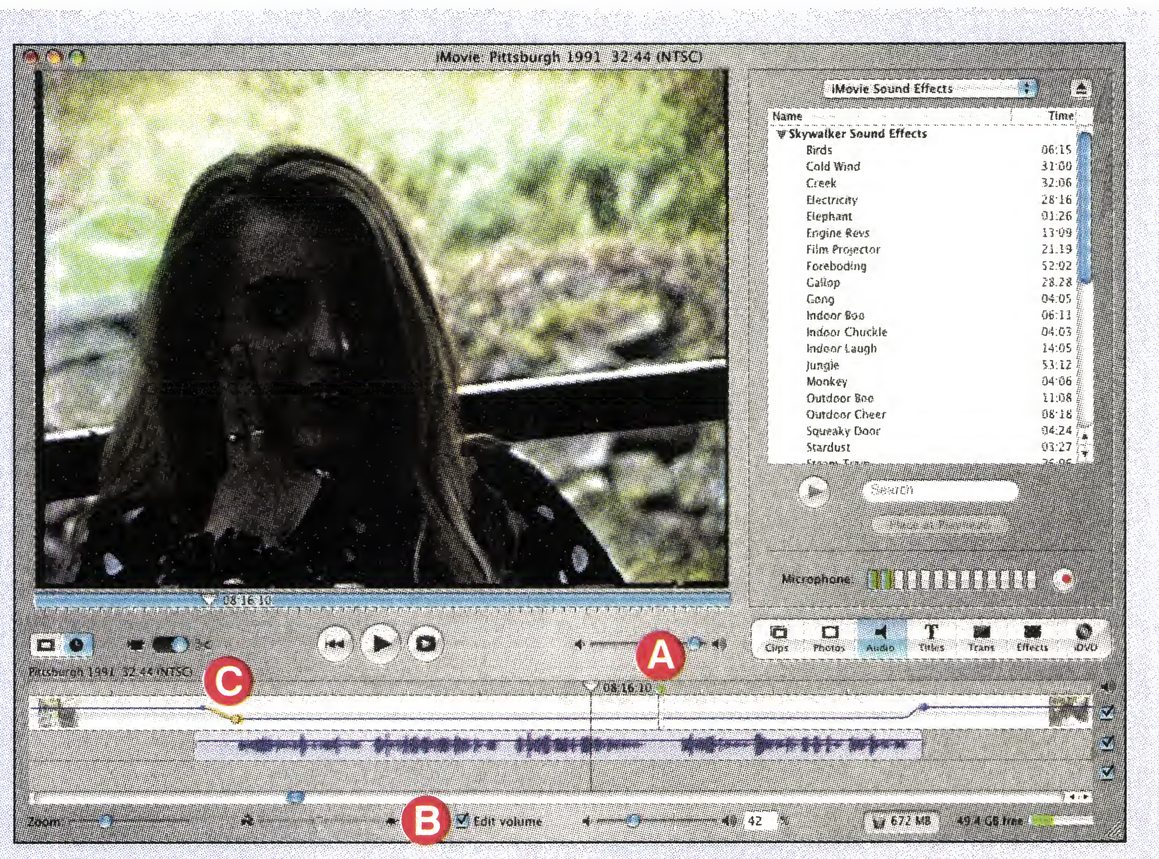
Save some stills. Many of iDVD's menu themes contain drop zones — special areas into which you can drag photos or movies to customise your menu designs. If your video contains one particular scene that's representative of the entire movie — for example, a kid blowing out birthday candles — save a still from that scene to use in a drop zone.

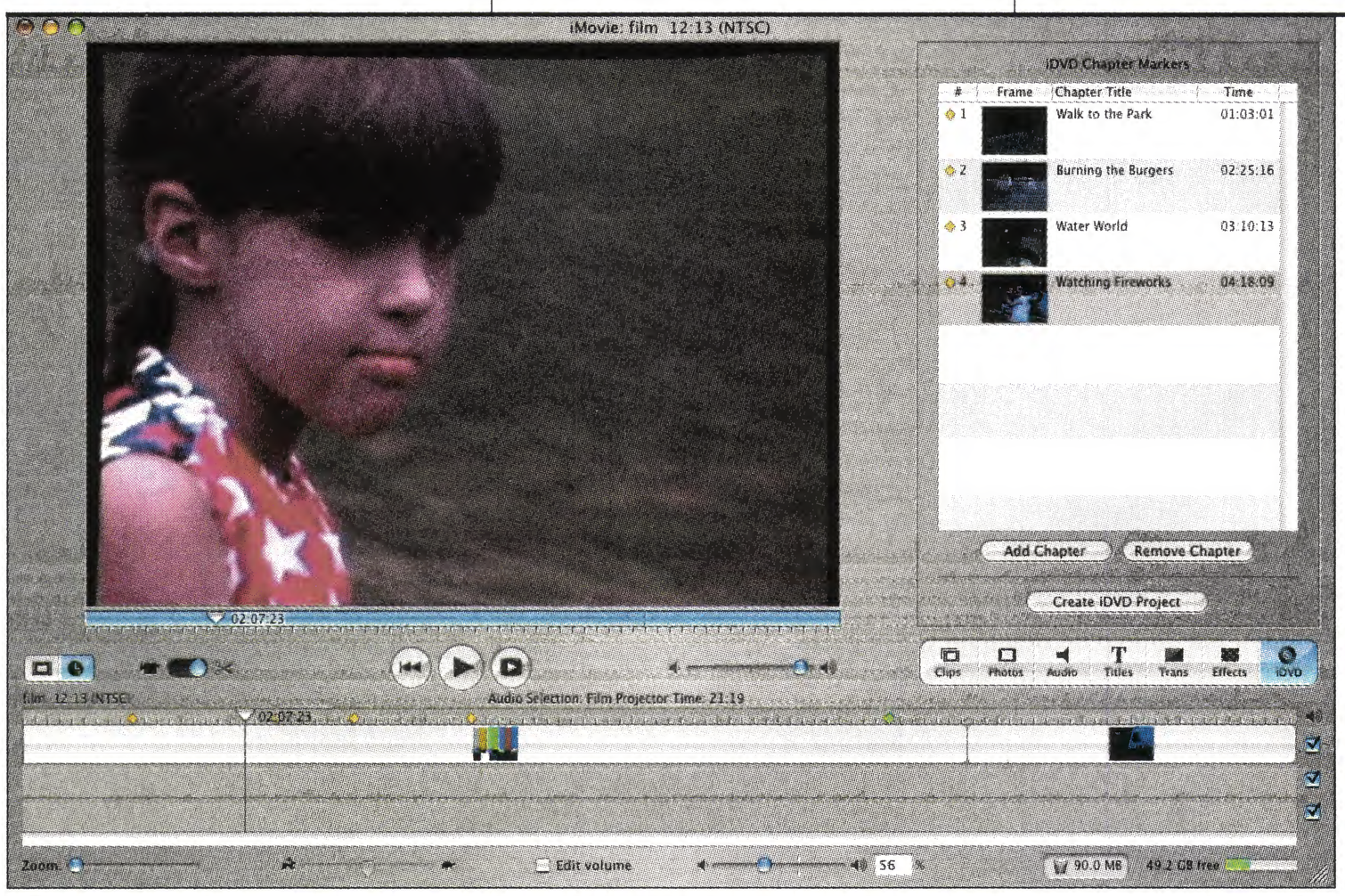
To do so, position iMovie's playhead at the frame you'd like to save. Next, choose Save Frame As from the File menu and specify a name for the frame. Use the default JPEG format.

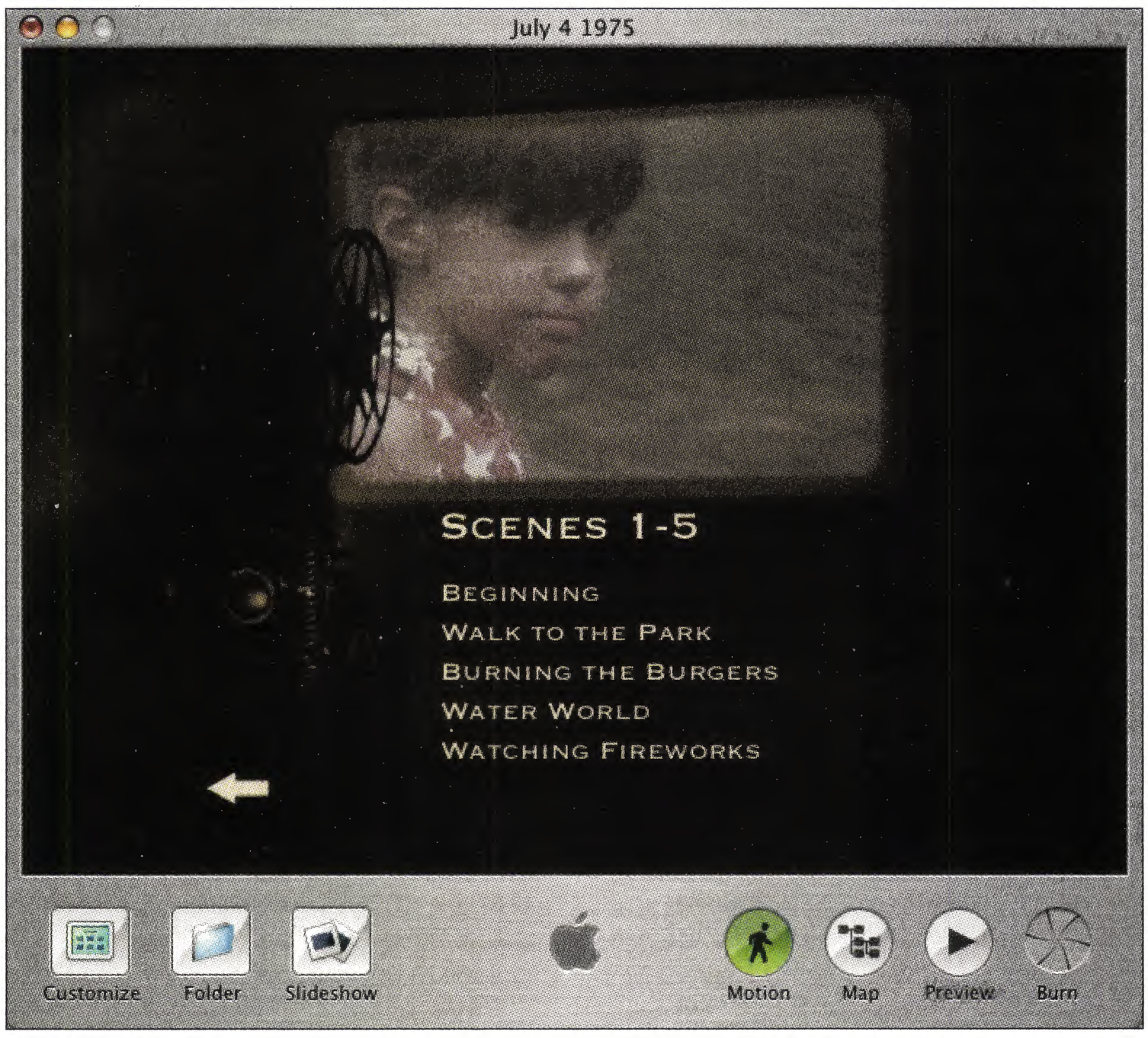
Sound practises

By recording narration in iMovie, you can add new perspective to an old video. iMovie 4 includes some audio improvements that make recording narration even easier. The first of these is an audio-waveform view. When you turn on the Show Audio Track Waveforms option in iMovie's preference pane, iMovie displays the audio track as a waveform — giving you visual representation of the rise and fall of the recorded dialogue. This helps you better match up your narration with the action on screen. In this project, for example, I was able to synchronise the transition between two different scenes A with a pause in the narration.

To eliminate competing dialogue, you may also want to lower the volume from your video track while the narration is playing. To do this, select the clip in the timeline and then click on the Edit Volume option B. You'll notice a thin horizontal line running through your clip. Click on the line at the point where your narration begins C, and drag the control point down to lower the volume. Repeat this process (but drag the control point up) at the end of the narration to return the clip's volume to its original level.







What's on the menu? When you click on Add Chapter in iMovie's iDVD pane, you can mark where important scenes begin (top). iDVD then uses these markers to create a submenu offering instant access to each scene (bottom).

Save a scene. You can also place a snippet of video in an iDVD drop zone — to show the entire candle-blowing incident, for example. To use a scene from your movie in a drop zone, first save your finished iMovie project. Isolate the footage you want in its own clip, and then choose Share from the File menu. Click on the QuickTime button, and choose the Full Quality DV option. Be sure to turn on the Share Selected Clips Only option. Then click on Share and give the new movie a name. Close the iMovie project without saving your changes. (This step preserves the clip in its original, unsplit form.) Once you're in iDVD, simply drag the short movie you just created into the drop zone.

Step five: Create your DVD.

When you're satisfied with your edited movies, you can transfer your finished video into iDVD, customise its menus, and then burn your finished project.

Make the move to iDVD. If you have only one iMovie project to burn, you can import it into iDVD simply by clicking on the Create iDVD Project button in iMovie's iDVD pane. iDVD will launch and begin importing the movie. If the movie contains chapter markers, iDVD will also create a Scene Selection menu with buttons for each of the chapters.

To add more iMovie projects to your DVD, click on iDVD's Customize button. When the Customize drawer pops out from the left side of the window, click on the Media button and choose Movies from the pop-up menu. Find the movie you want to add, and then drag its thumbnail into your DVD's menu area. If you've stored your iMovie projects somewhere other than in your Movies folder — on an external hard drive, for example — you'll need to tell iDVD where to find them. Open iDVD's Movies preference pane and click on the Add button to specify the location of your files.

For best results, open your iDVD preference pane and choose the Best Quality option. iDVD lets you include as much as two hours of video on a disc. But you'll get the best image quality by limiting video to an hour or less.

Customise your menus. iDVD includes several predesigned templates — called themes — for your DVD menus. To add one of these to your project, click on the Customize button, select Theme from the Customize drawer, and then set the Theme pop-up menu to All. Choose a theme that best represents your subject. The Projector theme, for example, is great for old movies that you've transferred from film.

If your theme contains a drop zone, add the still image that you saved from iMovie. Simply drag the image's icon from the Finder into the drop zone.

You can also use an image as the background to your iDVD menu: just press the ⌘ key as you drag the image into the menu area.

Preview and burn. When you've finished designing your DVD, click on iDVD's Preview button to test your disc. If everything checks out, double-click on the Burn button and insert a blank DVD-R.

Note that if your DVD project takes up 4GB of disk space, you'll need at least 8GB of free space (essentially, double the

amount of your project) to burn the DVD. To gauge the size of your project, open the Status pane of iDVD's Customize drawer.

For reliable burns, don't use your Mac while a disc is burning. If you're burning on a PowerBook, plug the PowerBook into the wall so it won't run out of battery power.

When iDVD finishes encoding and burning your movies, it'll give you the option of burning additional discs or closing the iDVD project. Even if you're burning a DVD only for yourself, I recommend making additional copies. Discs sometimes get lost and it'd be a shame to have to do all of this again (see the sidebar "Preserving your media").

Step six: Archive your work. Once you've finished burning your DVDs, you'll probably want to free up the hard-drive space that your project is taking up.

If you have an external FireWire hard drive, consider archiving your digital media on it. Drag the folders containing your iMovie and iDVD project files onto the hard drive, and then delete them from your system.

If you own a MiniDV camcorder, you can also use iMovie to export your edited movie back to a MiniDV tape. You won't be able to save your iDVD projects this way, but if you decide to burn additional discs later, you can reimport your completed movie into iMovie with no loss in picture quality.

Another option — one that does let you save your iDVD projects — is DV Backup, from coolatoola (see "Hot links"); it lets you back up any data to a compatible DV camcorder.

The last word. Enhancing and sharing old video or film footage can be a lot of work, especially if you take the time to edit scenes and add additional elements. It can also be a fun and rewarding exercise — a way to relive old memories and preserve them for the future. That's what I'd call a labour of love.

Preserving your media

After all the effort you've put into importing and enhancing your old movies, the last thing you want is for your DVDs to become unplayable after a few years. Alas, DVD-R discs don't last forever. To improve their reliability and longevity, don't apply peel-and-stick labels to them. These can cause a host of problems, including jamming up the DVD player, causing the disc to spin off-balance, or damaging the DVD's substrate. Instead, label the discs with permanent marker (TDK makes a range of pens with non-acidic ink specifically for labelling CDs and DVDs, available from most good stationers — the ink in most permanent markers can damage the disc over time).

Verbatim offers an interesting alternative to plain DVDs. Its Digital Movie DVD-R resembles a film reel (pictured, bottom). For users who want to give their DVDs more panache, Epson offers a line of printers that can print directly onto the surface of a printable CD or DVD (pictured, top). Keep your burned DVDs in jewel cases, and store them in a cool, dark place. Consider stashing a couple of backups in a safe-deposit box.

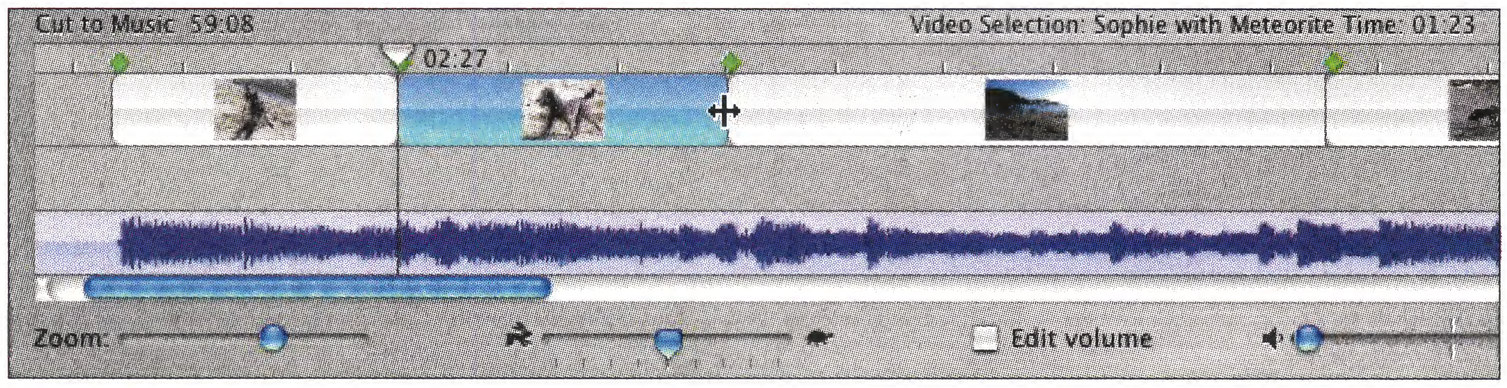
What about those old videotapes? If you're like me, you can't bear to throw them out, even if you've digitised them. To prolong their life, rewind them and store them vertically (like a book), with the full reel on the bottom. Store them in a cool, dry location. Fast-forward and then rewind the tapes once a year.

Divine conversions

	RRP	Manufacturer	Distributor	Hot links
ADVC 55	$399	Canopus	Canopus Australia 03 9885 5888	www.canopus-aust.com
DAC-100	$449	Datavideo	GDB International 02 6281 5483	www.gdbint.com.au
Pyro A/V Link	$545	ADS Technologies	Conexus 02 9975 2799	www.conexus.com.au
Studio DV	$589	Formac	Powermove 03 9497 4011	www.power.com.au
ADVC 100	$599	Canopus	Canopus Australia 03 9885 5888	www.canopus-aust.com
Director's Cut Take 2	$660	Miglia	Adimex 02 9699 1088	www.adimex.com.au
ADVC 300	$999	Canopus	Canopus Australia 03 9885 5888	www.canopus-aust.com

Create your own music video

THE right music can convey the mood of an event in a way that photos and movie clips alone can't. iMovie 4 is particularly well suited to creating music-driven montages. Unlike iPhoto, iMovie lets you fully control a slide show's timing, transitions, and length. Even better, you can combine photos with video clips.



Timing your cuts. **In iMovie 4, bookmarks appear as small green diamonds above the timeline.**

Prepare your soundtrack. Your first job is to import music into iMovie. In a new iMovie project, click on the Audio button and select an appropriate song from your iTunes library. For best results, use a song that has a strong rhythm and whose lyrics complement your visuals.

Once you've chosen a song, you'll use iMovie 4's bookmarking feature to mark where in the song each new image or scene should start. Bookmarks are timeline "guideposts" indicating points you want to refer to later.

Bookmarks appear as small green diamonds over your timeline (see the screenshot "Timing your cuts"). To create a bookmark, you typically move the iMovie playhead to the desired location in the timeline and then choose Add Bookmark from the Bookmarks menu.

Bookmark as you play. To develop a rhythm, and to better sync your cuts to the flow of the music, insert bookmarks as you listen to the song. Play the iMovie project from the beginning, and press ⌘-B each time you hear a spot where you'll want a scene change — for example, at the end of every phrase or at important beats.

If you need to remove a stray bookmark, just drag the playhead to the bookmark and choose Delete Bookmark from the Bookmarks menu.

Scrubbing for precision. If you're having trouble placing bookmarks accurately, use iMovie's audio-scrubbing feature to control playback speed.

Zoom in on the timeline by adjusting the zoom slider. While holding down the option key, slowly drag iMovie's playhead left and right. Your audio playback will match the speed and direction of the playhead. If the playback is still too fast, zoom in further. If it's too slow, zoom out.

Visualise your audio. iMovie 4 can also display an audio track's waveform. This is useful if you need to locate pauses or particularly loud moments.

To see the waveform, open iMovie's preferences and select the Show Audio Track Waveforms option. If your song's waveform isn't visually dramatic enough to help you find what you need, you can intensify it by selecting the song in the timeline and pressing the up-arrow key.

Add visuals. You're ready to assemble your photos and video clips. If you're using photos, be sure to turn off the Ken Burns option in the Photos pane. You can apply the effect later.

You'll want to piece together your images so a new photo or movie clip appears at every bookmark.

Make it snappy. Instead of struggling to position a clip at the exact spot you've bookmarked, let iMovie do the work for you. Open iMovie's preferences and turn on the Timeline Snapping option. As you drag items within the timeline, they'll automatically align to any other items they encounter, including bookmarks.

Trim clips. Editing a video clip is now much easier, thanks to iMovie's direct trimming feature. Direct trimming lets you hide unwanted footage without irrevocably altering the clip — so you can refine your edits later if you change your timing or need to rearrange your images.

First, trim the clip's starting point so it comes in at just the right moment. Click on the clip's left edge and drag it inward until you reach the beginning of the scene. Make sure the front of the clip aligns with your first bookmark.

Next, click on the right edge of the clip and drag it to the left or right until it snaps to the following bookmark. Repeat this process for each clip.

Make room for transitions. When iMovie inserts a transition between two clips, it lops off some of the first clip's footage. You can compensate for this — and ensure that your transitions appear right on cue — by leaving some extra footage at the end of each clip.

Click on the right edge of your trimmed clip or photo in the timeline and slowly extend it to the right as you watch the time-code readout just above the timeline. How far you extend the clip will depend on the duration of the transition you're using. For example, if you're planning a 12-frame (half-second) cross dissolve, you'll want to lengthen a clip so that it extends roughly six frames beyond its bookmark.

As you make these kinds of small trimming adjustments, you may find that timeline snapping works against you. If so, you can quickly toggle the Timeline Snapping feature on and off by holding down the shift key while trimming. Now drag the next clip into place and add the transition. It should fall right at the bookmark you set.

Add motion to photos. If you're using photos, you can give them a sense of motion by applying iMovie's Ken Burns effect. First, make sure that you've downloaded Apple's iMovie 4.01 update. (It fixes a bug that caused the Ken Burns effect to zoom out too quickly.) Control-click on a photo and choose Edit Photo Settings from the contextual menu. In the Photos pane, select the Ken Burns Effect option, set up the desired move, and then click on Update.

Hot Links

www.macilife.com/digitalhub
Download a one-minute video to see these audio-syncing techniques in action.

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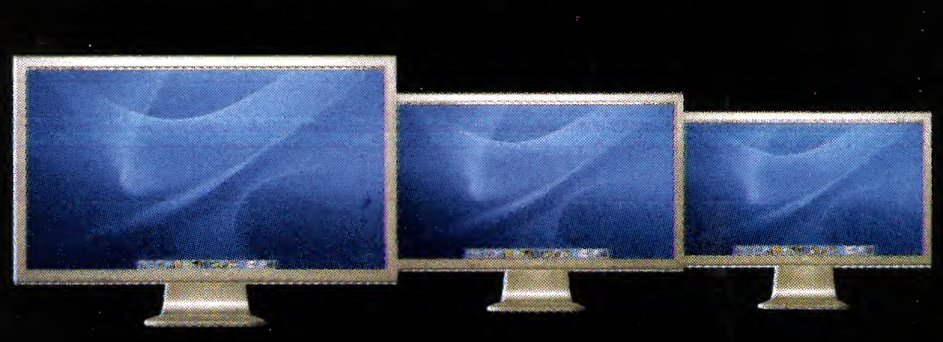

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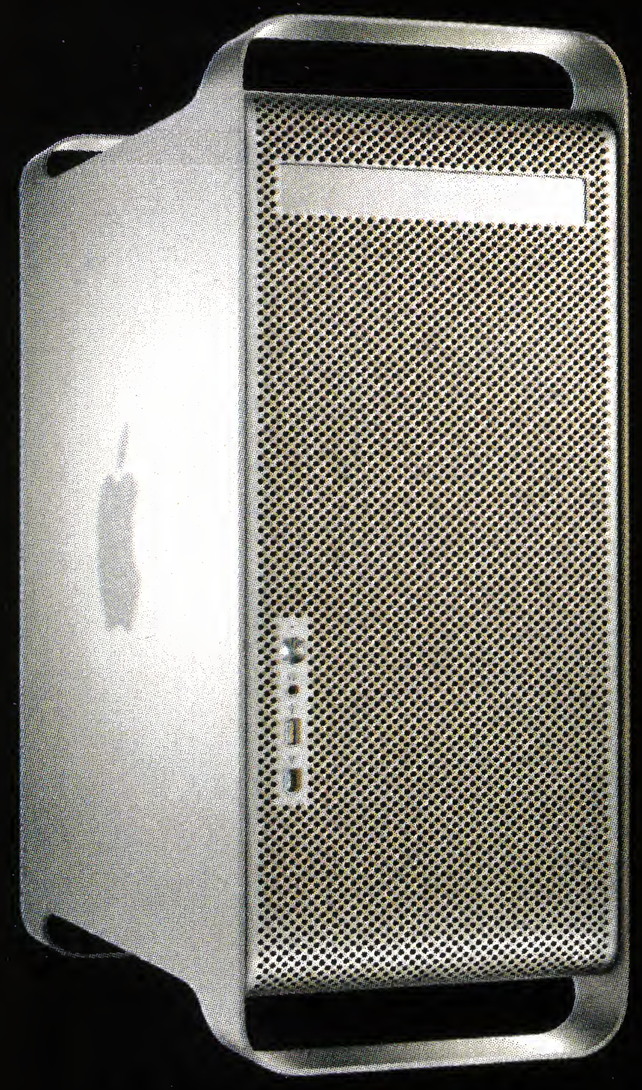

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By Philip Luces.

Compact powerhouses

NIKON has earned a reputation for excellent digital cameras over the years, particularly with regards to image quality. However, we don't often get to hear about what's being done at the more modest end of the price range. To slot into that area, Nikon has introduced the stylish and compact Coolpix 4200 and Coolpix 5200. These cameras are virtually indistinguishable and share many of the same features, although the Coolpix 5200 is a 5.1-megapixel camera (capable of 2592x1944 images) and the Coolpix 4200 is a 4-megapixel camera (2274x1704 pixel resolution).

Interestingly, both cameras come with 12MB of internal memory, which allows users to start shooting right away without the need for a memory card, though either can utilise standard SD Cards as well. These new cameras have the ability to use both rechargeable Li-Ion batteries or disposable lithium batteries, making them very flexible. PictBridge compatibility has also been integrated into both the Coolpix 4200 and Coolpix 5200, which will allow users to print directly to PictBridge-enabled printers without the need for a Mac.

Perhaps the most revolutionary aspect of these cameras is the image sensor. These Coolpix cameras have been fitted with digital SLR-standard image processors which should help to create even better pictures. Both cameras also feature a 3x optical zoom that is roughly equivalent to a 38mm-114mm zoom for a 35mm camera. Other features incorporated into the Coolpix 4200 and the Coolpix 5200 include a five-area auto-focus system, 99-area manual focusing capability and 15 separate shooting modes for all situations. Each camera is capable of capturing motion video at different resolutions (640x480, 320x240, and 160x120), although the 4200 is only able to capture at 15fps while the 5200 can record motion at 30fps.

A very useful feature found on both of these cameras is the white balance bracketing function. Rather like exposure bracketing, the white balance bracketing feature

Revolutionary. **Nikon's Coolpix 5200 camera features a digital SLR-quality image processor in a compact form factor.**

enables the camera to capture a few shots in a row, but with slightly varied white balance settings.

The $799 Nikon Coolpix 5200 and the $699 Coolpix 4200 are available through Maxwell Optical Industries. For further information, call 1300 366 499.

Hot Links

www.maxwell.com.au
Australian distributor of Nikon products

Sony's legion of compacts

NOT to be outdone, Sony has launched an entire range of Cybershot digital still cameras, including the P-series models and the DSC W1 device. All of these new cameras utilise Sony's Real Image Processor technology which, according to the company, produces better image quality and enables these new cameras to shoot more quickly.

At the top of the new range of Cybershot cameras is the 5.1-megapixel (2592x1944) DSC W1, which is a little larger than the P-series cameras. However, this larger size comes with a purpose — a significantly larger LCD screen on the back. Instead of the usual 1.8-inch display found on the backs of many digital cameras these days, the Cybershot DSC W1 comes with a 2.5-inch screen, making it a lot easier to get a better view on your subjects when you're shooting them.

Fiendishly cool. **The Cybershot DSC W1 packs a load of features, including an extra large LCD screen.**

Bear in mind that larger displays usually require more power, so you may end up needing to charge batteries more often with this one, especially given that it comes with only two rechargeable AA batteries. Other key features of the DSC W1 include a 3x optical zoom, five-area auto-focus, a nine-shot burst mode (a shot every 0.8 seconds), manual exposure controls, PictBridge compatibility and even a live histogram display for checking your exposures. The $799 DSC W1 comes with a 32MB Memory Stick and can support capturing video at 30fps when using the newer Memory Stick Pro storage cards.

Sharing pride of place at the top of the new range of cameras is the $799 Cybershot P100, a 5.1 megapixel camera that shares many of the same features as the DSC W1, but only comes with a 1.8-inch LCD screen. Despite the significantly different form factor, there's little to differentiate the P100 from the DSC W1 in terms of features, although the P100 can be used with the Cybershot

Open the pod bay doors. **The Cybershot P100 is compatible with the optional Cybershot Station CSS-PHA docking solution.**

Station CSS-PHA docking solution. This docking station can be connected to your Mac or TV and enables you to charge the camera by simply slotting it in.

Other cameras in the new P-series include the $699 P93 (3x zoom, 5.1 megapixel), the $599 P73 (3x, 4.1 megapixel — 2304x1728), the $449 P43 (fixed focal length, 4.1 megapixel, rechargeable batteries), and the $399 P41 (fixed focal length and 4.1 megapixel).

For further details, contact Sony on 1300 137 669.

Hot Links

www.sony.com.au
Australian home of Sony Products

Hot Links

www.epson.com.au
Australian home of Epson products

Epson targets serious people

SCANNERS, you might think, are a dime a dozen, but the latest professional-level scanner from Epson will certainly make you think twice. The truly enormous Epson Expression 1000XL A3 scanner is squarely targeted at serious professional users, particularly as its 2400x4800dpi resolution scanning ability makes it ideal for converting over your archive of film-based images. According to Epson, the Expression 1000XL comes with a high optical density of 3.8, which puts it on a par with some drum scanners.

Big picture. The truly enormous Epson Expression 1000XL boasts an A3-sized scanning area and optional network connectivity.

If you're interested in converting over your old backlog of film-based images, then you'll need to pick up an optional transparency adapter. Given the Expression 1000XL's fairly steep price tag of $6600, that might seem like a bit of an added burden, but the transparency unit utilises a moving light that has been designed to scan film even faster. Thanks to the A3-sized scanning area, this means that you can scan 48 frames of 35mm strip film, or 30 mounted slides, or 12 medium format, or eight 4x5 inch negs or transparencies at once. While the Expression 1000XL comes with both USB 2.0 and FireWire interfaces, you could also fork out for the optional Network Image Express Card which will allow you to connect the Expression 1000XL to a network — ideal for a professional environment.

On paper. On the printing front, Epson has introduced a photo-quality inkjet printer for A4 paper with an eight-channel print-head that is expected to appeal to the serious photographer.

Colour me happy. The eight-channel print-head of the Epson Stylus Photo R800 is ideal for users looking to print glossy photos.

The Espon Stylus Photo R800 includes the standard four colours in its print head — cyan, magenta, yellow and black — but adds primary red and blue ink. On top of that, Epson has integrated two additional types of black — a matte black (MBk) and a photo black (PBk). To finish off this range of colours and blacks, the R800's print-head has a cartridge well with a gloss optimiser (GO). This optimiser, called UltraChrome Hi-Gloss Pigment Ink, coats highlight areas in a printout with a clear glossy resin, which helps to even out the glossy finish on images printed with the R800.

The $699 Stylus Photo R800, which comes with both USB 2.0 and FireWire interfaces, is available through Epson Australia on (02) 8999 3666.

Thinking outside A4

HAVING personal control of your image output is always very tempting, especially given the way we're able to handle the entire process thanks to Apple's ColorSync technology. There's something comforting about being able to control the colour output at all points of the production, from camera and scanner, to monitor, and finally to the printout. However, if you're a semi-pro or professional photographer on a budget, producing large format printouts of your top quality photos can tend to be a little outside your capabilities.

Simply put, going over the A4 size on your own is a little pricey, and should you want to print on anything larger than A3, well, you're looking at a hell of a lot of expenditure. The solution is to take your high-resolution digital images to a third party, a commercial reprographics service provider who usually prints large displays for advertising, etc. This might seem a little excessive, but if you're serious about taking your images to the next level, especially if you want to display your work in a large venue, then this really is the way to go. For one thing, these people are professionals in this area and can advise you as to what the final output of your work should be. Another thing is that they can arrange to print your images to all kinds of media, including back-light film and, in some cases, even canvas (if you're feeling exotic).

But what do you need to know? The only thing you need to know is that for most images, these providers prefer to get images at 300dpi resolution, although for images over around A2 in size, there's less of a need to keep at that resolution. More importantly, many reprographic service providers charge according to the size of the file that's being used and the size it's been printed out at, so it's worth keeping that in mind. Remember that the larger you go, the less dpi you need – for some really large printouts, an image at 80dpi resolution will still produce acceptable results. The printouts will be costly, but a fraction of what it would cost to hook up all the required gear to your Mac.

Hot Links

www.imaging.com.au
www.digital-lucida.com.au
http://members.ozemail.com.au/~idom/
Some Australian providers of large format printing services

Apple and education in Australia.

By Martin Levins.

Creation theory

APPLE'S "1 to 1" conference, held recently in Sydney, attracted nearly 400 delegates and was widely lauded for its concept: the trinity of "Imagination, Inspiration and Innovation".

However, it was the trinity of Seymour Papert, author of "Mindstorms" and generally accepted father of educational computing, Gary Stager, professor of Education at Pepperdine University Los Angeles, and Angus King, ex-governor of Maine, who stole the show. If Papert is the father of computing in education, Stager is the son and King was the Holy Most, challenging participants in three intellectually stimulating days of exposition, questioning and criticism.

Papert kicked off with "Why do we have computers in education conferences? We don't have paper in education conferences". At first you might have thought he was about to build some sort of elaborate play on words with his own surname until he answered his own question: "perhaps we should — paper means that you have to sit still to learn".

Wow. This apparently fatuous statement rings true when you hear him point out that students diagnosed with ADHD may not be able to negotiate learning tasks simply because the usual medium (paper) demands that the user sits still at a desk.

So did computers, of course, but only when they were deskbound.

You still see photographs of students sitting in serried rows, each with a laptop in front of them on the desk. Apple itself uses these images in its marketing: teacher in front with chalk in hand. It can be argued that this is just a marketing image for people who associate teachers with chalk and blackboards (we're "chalkies" after all), but perhaps we're so ingrained in our current paradigm that we don't know how to make an alternative educational diet for kids.

Papert went on to build a case for basic, fundamental research (the sort that is now decried by economic rationalist governments whose catchcry is "industry relevance"). He reminisced about his own schooling when one learnt Latin to improve the mind, like an intellectual Pilates. He described that approach — learning how to learn — as "Latinesque" and compared it to a "Driveresque" approach, where you need to know what a stop sign looks like so you don't kill yourself or others.

He then posited that Maths is taught the way that it is simply because we have paper. This may not be sufficient justification. "We only discuss how stuff can be taught, not what should be taught. We're not looking at fundamentals, and run the risk of undermining the rigour of learning by concentrating on engagement and then removing any remaining rigour in the name of easier engagement.

"Instead, we could use the computer to allow kids to roam the high seas or build the pyramids of the 21st century." (Do you get that his special subject is Maths?)

Engagement and rigour together demand different subject matter, not just different ways of teaching the same old material.

He went on to add that, by concentrating on the computer as an information machine, we have removed 90 percent of its functionality. In other words, we can create but we just absorb.

You can see the Apple guys smiling — they're the ones with the iLife suite.

Papert was followed by Angus King, who entertained with his stories of the political chicanery needed to persuade a state whose economy is based on fishing and forestry that every child should get a laptop. To me, his statement that laptops get you two computers for the price of one because you use it at home and in school is what I'll remember. (I've already used this to our own parents — it's actually two for less than the price of one when you compare a 12" iBook to an eMac).

Papert and King set the stage for Gary Stager, who said "kids don't need to remember, they just need to know how to do, so they can find it when they need it". He related stories of his work with kids in Maine, and of the power of software such as Microworlds, which draws so much from Papert's early work.

He went on to show kids learning concepts almost incidentally. He quoted teachers annoyed that two months spent on teaching coordinate geometry is wasted when the same students using Microworlds were learning and demonstrating the concepts in a couple of minutes.

Back to Papert. His early work with Logo where students had to teach a "turtle" how to draw a circle and in doing so learnt a lot about circleness is exactly what is happening here.

We don't teach like this in most schools. International Computer Driving licences, bizarre state-based testing of computer skills and the American "No child left behind" Act concentrate on the Driveresque, but leave the more potent Latinesque.

Reclaim powerful learning. You've got the tools.

As an educator, Martin Levins likes empowering people to create using computing technologies.

Hot Links

www.papert.org
All you ever wanted to know about Seymor Papert
www.stager.org
Gary Stager's enormous site providing "support for progressive educators"
www.state.me.us/mlte
The Maine Learning Technology Initiative

James Christopher Murty.

Master your domain

Set up your own DNS

MAC OS X 10.2 introduced an extremely useful mechanism called Rendezvous, which allows your computer to advertise dynamically to – and locate IP services running on – other Macs on your local network. Rendezvous is what iChat's Rendezvous buddy list uses to find local iChat users, how iTunes locates shared music, how Safari locates other Macs running Personal Web Sharing; and how the Printer Setup Utility locates shared printers.

As you've no doubt discovered, it's is a handy tool that just keeps getting better as more applications start using it. However, it has its limitations. It's only available on a local network, so you cannot use it to find or advertise services across the internet or even on some large office network (particularly where network routers are involved). Second, not all IP services and their corresponding client applications support it (yet). And finally, while Windows PCs or Unix users have a similar technology available to them called Zero Conf, it isn't widely implemented yet. Where it is, it isn't usually compatible with what Mac OS X has to offer.

So, what do you do if you want to be able to share services, such as printers, with non Mac OS X computers on your network (including those running Mac OS 9), and you don't want to have to type IP addresses?

Fortunately, a system for using names instead of addresses is available; in fact it's something you've already been using for a while now. Domain Name Services, or DNS, have been around nearly for as long as there has been an internet. It works with any computer or device capable of using TCP/IP but unlike Rendezvous has the limitation that it requires IP addresses to remain static.

How does DNS work? DNS is the system that normally comes into play when you type `www.exampledomain.com.au` into Safari. DNS does the lookup that provides the actual static IP address for the (in this case the hypothetical) computer running the web server that Safari needs to contact so that it can download the components needed to render the web page.

The service relies upon a hierarchical, distributed, redundant system of name servers arranged in a branch-like structure. First, one of the many root servers is randomly chosen and contacted in order to determine the appropriate top level domain name server. In our example's case, the result would be the addresses of the servers (usually several possibilities) responsible for the "com.au" top level domain. One of these servers is then contacted to determine the servers responsible or "authoritative" for the "exampledomain.com.au" second level domain. Finally one of those servers is asked for the address of "www.exampledomain.com.au". At this point your web browser can start downloading text and images.

Hot Links

BIND
www.isc.org/index.pl?/sw/bind/
BIND
www.nominum.com/content/documents/bind9arm.pdf
BIND 9 Reference Manual
www.internic.net/alpha.html
International Accredited Registrar Directory
www.auda.org.au/registrars/
Australian Accredited Registrars

Setting up your own domain. In order to setup DNS for your home or office allowing you to refer to computers by name instead of address you need to run a private DNS server which is authoritative for a local domain. The ".local" domain is already used by Rendezvous so it is not available. Apple recommends that you use a domain like ".home", ".lan", or ".office". It's also possible to buy a real – internet usable – domain from one of the many domain registrars (see "Hot links"). This option could be quite useful if you had a server (or servers) available on the internet and you wanted to be able to make it easier for people to find you.

All versions of Mac OS X have a fully featured DNS server called BIND, already installed on them, which greatly simplifies what we have to do. The latest version of Mac OS X Server provides a GUI that eases configuration and startup but still requires you to understand the concepts involved.

Set up a domain database. Also known as a zone file, this is a text file consisting of a series of entries called resource records. For this example I'm going to use a domain called ".home".

Create a file in the directory /var/named by typing `sudo vi /var/named/home.zone` into the Terminal.

Enter the following text into that file, paying careful attention to the punctuation and spacing (words appearing after semicolons are simply comments).

```
$TTL 86400
$ORIGIN home.
@ IN SOA primary.home. (
2004061301; serial number
3H ; refresh
15M ; retry
```

```
1W ; expire
1D ) ; minimum

IN NS primary.home.

router IN A 192.168.1.1
fileserver IN A 192.168.1.2
primary IN CNAME fileserver
atom IN A 192.168.1.32
```

The first line provides the default Time To Live for a response handed out by the server in seconds. In this case, the default is 86400 seconds, or one day. This means that any computer requesting an address from our server should only hold that address in its cache for one day.

The next line specifies that subsequent lines are in the context of our "home" domain. The full stop is important because that it designates that "home" is a top-level domain, and not a sub domain of something else.

The third line is the Start Of Authority resource record that states that "primary.home" is the authoritative DNS sever for "home" and continues with a bunch of other stuff that would normally be required by a secondary DNS server. In this example the actual values aren't important but we still need to enter something meaningful.

The serial number is used to indicate the current version of the zone file. One convention is to use modification dates in reverse with a counter but it could just as easily be the sequence 1, 2, 3 etc. It's only important that the number increments every time you make a change. Refresh determines how long a secondary DNS should wait before refreshing its copy of the zone file. Retry specifies how long a secondary DNS server should wait in the event of failing to contact the primary before trying again. Expiry sets how long a secondary will keep handing out answers to queries for a domain should it be unable to contact the primary server for an extended period of time. The minimum sets the minimum TTL.

The NS resource record line specifies that the name sever for the home domain is called "primary". If there were secondary servers for this domain, there would be similar entries here.

Finally, there are a series of records listing computer names and their associated IP addresses. These are known as A records. I have listed a network router called "router" at 192.168.1.1, which is a fairly common address for a router on a private network. You'll notice that there is no full stop after any of these names. This implies that "router.home" is the full address in the context of the ORIGIN line mentioned previously. A CNAME record is like an alias. It means that the computer called "primary" is the same computer as the one called "fileserver". This entry could just have easily been an A record, however.

Tell the server what to do. Add the new domain to the configuration file for the BIND DNS daemon, which is called "named".

Type `sudo pico /usr/sbin/named` to open and edit the file. At the end of this file add the following:

```
zone "home" IN {
type master;
file "home.zone" ;
allow-update { none; };
} ;
```

As before the syntax is crucial – don't mistake curly brackets for parentheses. This piece of code lets named know that it's the primary DNS server for the "home" domain, and, where to locate the zone file.

Activate the daemon. You should also ensure that named starts up automatically every time the computer is rebooted.

To do this type `sudo named to launch BIND`. Then have a look at `/var/log/system.log` to see if it started properly, by typing `tail –n 10 /var/log/system.log` to see the last ten lines of the log file. Don't worry about the errors concerning keys; these are to do with setting up secure communication between primary and secondary DNS servers. The most likely error is due to the misplacement of semicolons in the named.conf file. This will be apparent in system.log and it will list which line where the error occurred. Correct any errors and try launching named again in that case.

Once you're satisfied that it's working, you need to make a modification to the /etc/hostconfig file which determines what services are started up when Mac OS X reboots.

Type `sudo pico /etc/hostconfig` and locate the line that says `DNSSERVER=-NO-` and change this to `DNSSERVER=-YES-`

Point all computers on your LAN to the DNS server. Do this by entering the address of your DNS server in the Network pane of System Preferences. The method to do this varies depends on the operating system running on the computer in question. If it is a Mac OS 9 computer, you'll need to go to Apple Menu, Control Panels, TCP/IP. If it's a Windows 9x or Windows 2000 computer you'll need to go to the Start Menu, Settings, Control Panels, Networking.

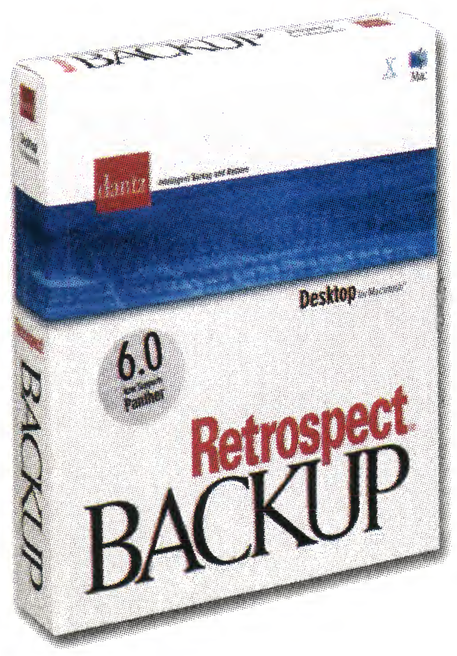
This will turn your Mac OS X into a recursive DNS server for all of the computers on your network. If the bandwidth available to your computer is limited, you may want to further configure named so that it forwards DNS requests for other domains to your ISP's DNS server. To do this, open up the named configuration file again, and toward the top of the file immediately below the `options {` line, type:

```
forwarders {
W.X.Y.Z ;
A.B.C.D ;
} ;
```

where W.X.Y.Z and A.B.C.D are the addresses for the DNS servers provided by your ISP. Doing this will save bandwidth and (potentially) response times as your ISP will most certainly have more bandwidth available than you.

By Sean McNamara.

Help folder
We answer our readers' questions



Each month Channelworx (1300 883 882) gives a copy of Dantz Retrospect Desktop (valued at $259) to the *Australian Macworld* reader who submits the most intriguing Help folder query.

Retrospect Desktop is the #1 home and small office backup software for Macintosh. Don't rely on manual drag-and-drop to protect your data — it misses important files, is performed sporadically at best, and cannot restore older or deleted files. Retrospect allows you to easily set up complete, scheduled backups of three networked Macintosh, Windows, or Red Hat Linux desktop and notebook computers. Client licenses are available to protect additional computers. The product CD contains both Retrospect 6.0 for backing up to Mac OS X (10.1.5 though 10.3 "Panther") and Retrospect 5.1 for backing up to Mac OS 9.

Send your query to matthew.powell@niche.com.au for consideration for Help folder. Include your full mailing address to be eligible to win Retrospect Desktop.

All queries and solutions are the sole property of Niche Media.

■ Sean McNamara is a Sydney-based consultant trading as MacAssist.

Hot Links

www.apple.com/feedback/iphoto.html>
iPhoto feedback
www.apple.com/isync/devices.html
iSync device compatibility
www.apple.com/feedback/ical.html
iCal feedback

www.channelworx.com.au
Query of the month sponsor
www.microsoft.com/mac
Tip of the month sponsor

The dating game

1

■ I am running Mac OS X 10.2.8 on my iMac and recently upgraded iPhoto 2 to 4.0.1. With the older version, I would export photos from iPhoto Library or Albums to various folders. When I looked at their attributes in the Finder, they showed the actual date "created" (the date they were taken or imported into iPhoto) and the correct "modified" date (if modified in iPhoto).

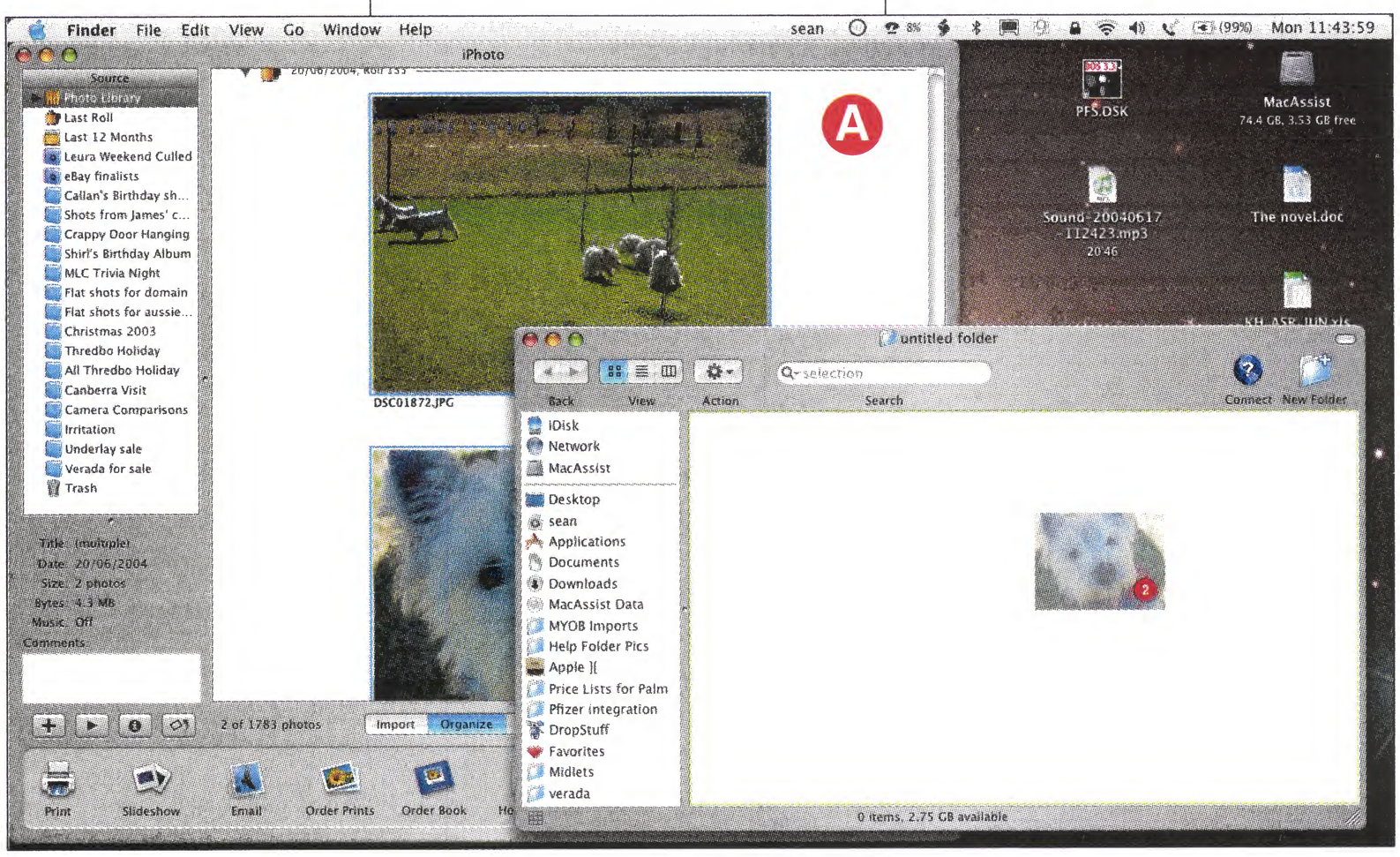
With the new version, if I export using file name, title or album name, both dates now show in files as the date I exported them. I spoke with AppleCare who said they had no solution and assumed this feature hadn't been carried over from the previous version.
Bill Lunn
Plympton, SA

I've checked over the various export options as you have, Bill, and I can confirm that iPhoto on my machine is behaving exactly as on yours, so it's highly unlikely to be a software installation or preferences problem, which is consistent with Apple's thoughts on the matter.

What I can also confirm, however, is that dragging photos from iPhoto does retain the original date information on the file — just select the photos you want, then drag them to the folder icon or window where you want them stored **A**.

The disadvantages of this method are: you can't resize the pictures when exporting, you can't use the title or album/roll name you've set in iPhoto to rename the files with; and you can't change the format of the file while exporting.

What would certainly be worthwhile is to fill out the iPhoto feedback form (see "Hot links") to request the re-instatement of the original behaviour. Although changing the format or size of the file means recreating the file, it shouldn't be too difficult to retain the original information, at least when the format and size isn't being changed.



BigPond vs OS X redux

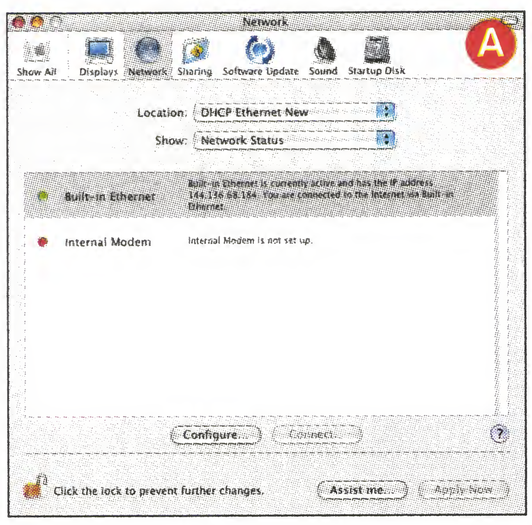
2

■ Can you help me to connect to Bigpond ADSL with Mac OS X v10.3? BigPond says it does not yet support this system even though the support page quotes you need "System 9.0.1 or X".
Akos Gyory
Daleys Point, NSW

What Telstra really means when it says it doesn't support Mac OS X v10.3 is that it hasn't trained staff in the particularities of that OS — not that its ADSL system won't work with Panther. There are, in fact, two potential answers to this question, Akos, depending on which modem you're sent by Telstra.

If you're sent one of the Alcatel SpeedTouch 500 series modem/routers, the configuration is pretty well identical to Mac OS X v10.2 — the main difference is that when you go into the Network System Preferences pane, you'll initially see a list of interfaces with their status **A**.

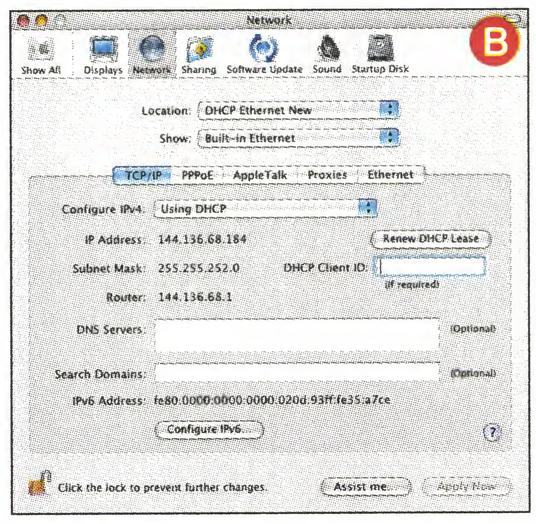
Past imperfect



Double click on Built-in Ethernet to make that port Configure IPv4 Using DHCP **B**. You should then be able to log in to the router's web pages at address http://10.0.0.138 to add in your username (in the form "username@bigpond") and your password — you don't need to add any other details.

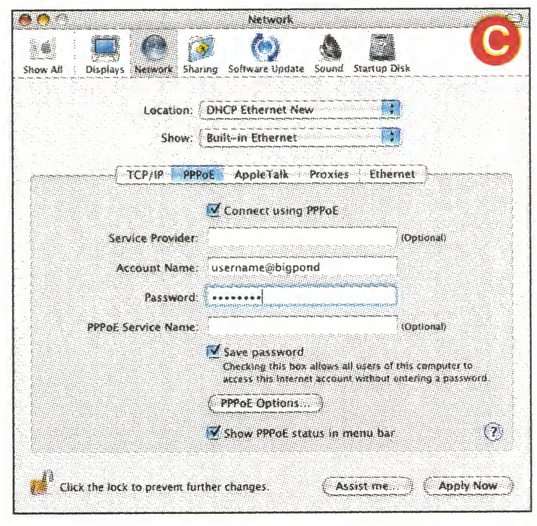
If you weren't sent one of those modem/routers, and just have a plain ADSL modem, all of the configuration is done in System Preferences.

Once again, open the Network pane of System Preferences, double click on Built-in Ethernet, then click on the PPPoE tab, and tick the "Connect using PPPoe" tickbox. Enter your username (in the form "username@bigpond") and password in the appropriate



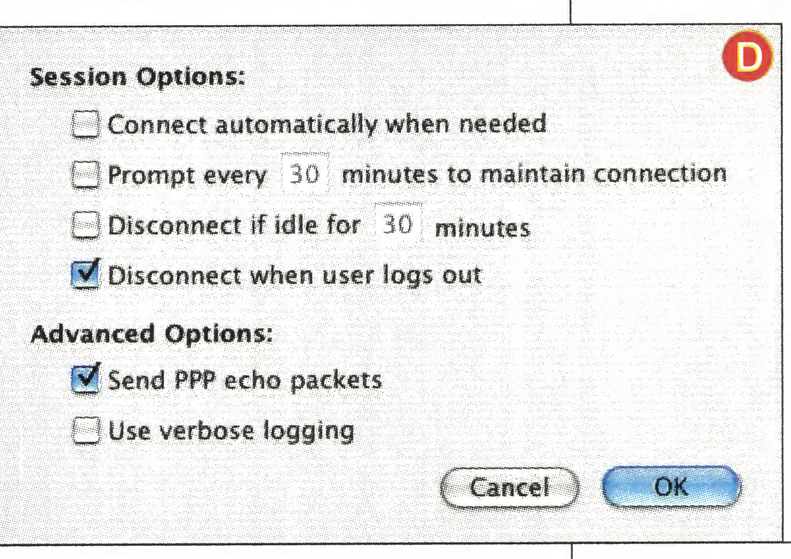
fields **C**, and set the PPPoE Options as you wish (for autoconnection, et cetera, **D** by clicking on the PPPoE Options button.

The only other change you'll probably need to make is back on the TCP/IP tab — enter two or more of these addresses into the DNS Servers field: 61.9.192.13, 61.9.192.14, 61.9.192.15, 61.9.192.16. Those are Telstra's



DNS servers (not that they advertise the fact), and I've found it's generally necessary to have two of those in that field for everything to work.

You should then be able to connect (if you have "Show PPPoE status in menu bar" ticked on the PPPoE tab, you can do this from the menu icon with the Ethernet symbol (looks like two arrowheads with three dots between them), or, if you've set to connect automatically in the PPPoE options, your Mac will just connect when you open a web page or check your mail.



Past imperfect

3

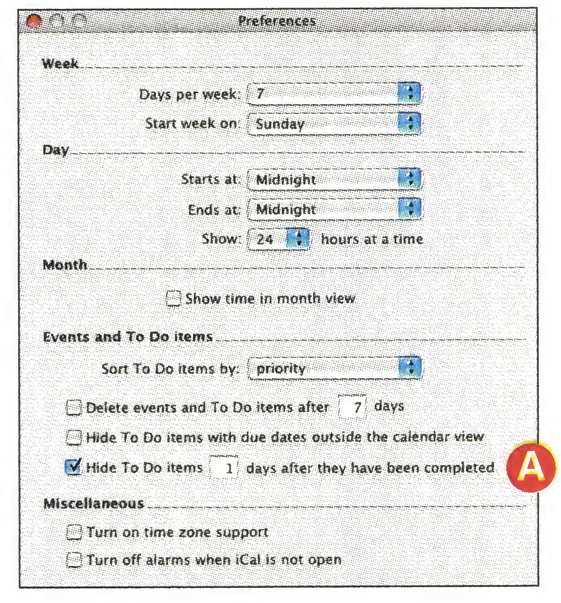
■ In the Help folder 06.2004, you responded to a query of mine. While the answer solved my problem, it creates a far worse one. By unticking the "Hide To Do items with due dates outside the calendar view", I now see all To Do Items that have not been completed, even if they are dated in December. Do you have any solutions to this problem?
Brendan Roome
Pelican Waters, QLD

I guess this comes down to a procedural issue — if you're not marking items as completed, it means you're not using iCal as it's been designed to be used, and therefore it isn't going to really work the way it seems you want it to.

My suggestion is to mark To Dos you don't want to see any more as Completed (if they're not completed, I think the iCal designers assume that you want to view them), and make sure the "Hide To Do items x days after they have been completed" **A** option is ticked, and set it to the number of days you'd like to see completed items for — the combination of those two answers will allow you to see To Dos outside of the currently viewed period, while also hiding those To Dos which have been completed, or which you don't want to see any more.

It's one of those situations where the program designers have tried to figure out the most likely way users will want to work, and users who don't want to work that way either have to adapt to the program or find an alternative.

You could always request a feature which shows uncompleted To Dos for a certain amount of time by going to the iCal feedback page (see "Hot links").


Preferences
Week
Days per week: 7
Start week on: Sunday
Day
Starts at: Midnight
Ends at: Midnight
Show: 24 hours at a time
Month
Show time in month view
Events and To Do items
Sort To Do items by: priority
Delete events and To Do items after 7 days
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Hide To Do items 1 days after they have been completed
A
Miscellaneous
Turn on time zone support
Turn off alarms when iCal is not open

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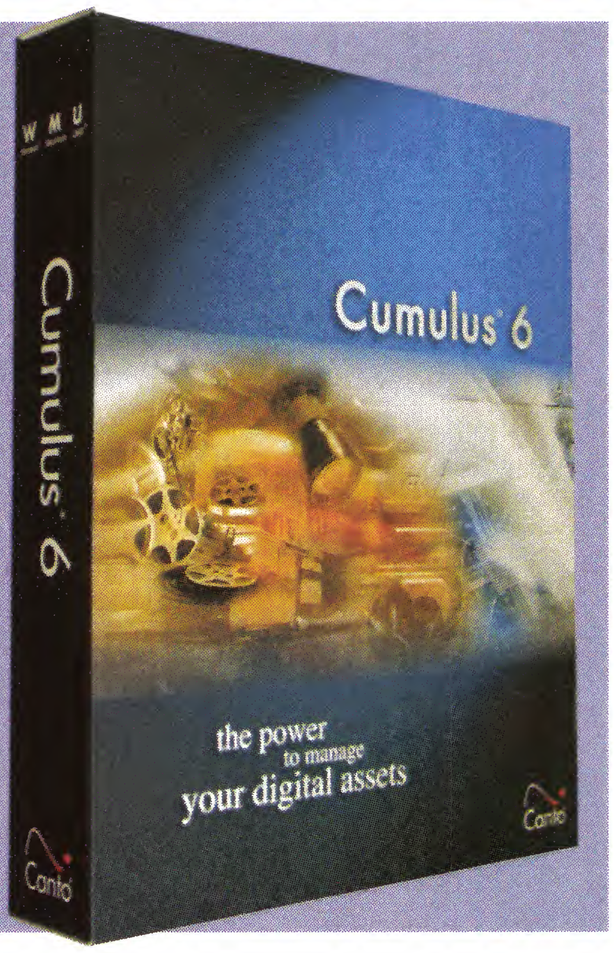
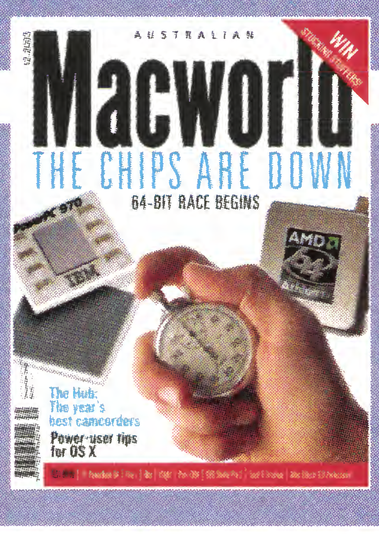
* The Canto Cumulus 6 Demo Disk is a fully functional version limited to 50 records. The 50% discount on the full retail value equates to a saving of $154 on the regular cost of Canto Cumulus at $308, and includespostage/handling. Canto Cumulus 6 is now fully compatible with Mac OS X.





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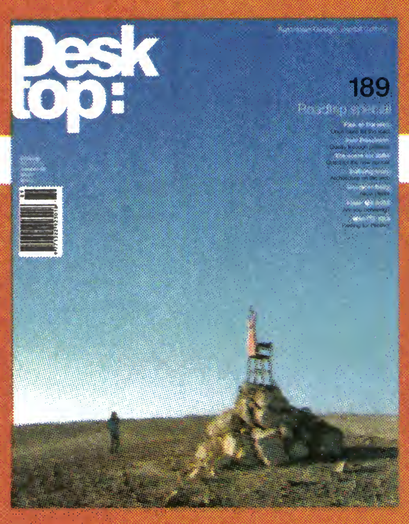
This is a genuine Extensis product, fully supported by Extensis' Australian distributor, PICA Software Pty Ltd. A full manual and all documentation is included on the CD in Adobe Acrobat format.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Macintosh PowerPC or compatible computer. Mac OS X v10.2.x (Jaguar) – 10.3.1 (Panther), 32MB (minimum) Application RAM, 25 MB free hard drive space, QuickTime6 or higher. Windows 98 or higher, NT (Service Pack 6 or 6a), Windows 2000 (Service Pack 2), Windows XP, 32 MB of system RAM, 25 MB or free had disk space, QuickTime 4.11 or higher strongly recommended.



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AUSTRALIAN Macworld | NewTek

"Story board" competition

Australian Macworld, NewTek and its Australian distributor New Magic are giving one reader the opportunity to win a copy of LightWave 3D, valued at $2800.

The combination of the most complete professional toolset in the industry at the most affordable price makes NewTek's LightWave 3D the best choice for any 3D job anywhere. Designers and artists from Malaysia to Norway, US to Australia, and everywhere in between are producing award-winning work and making a living with LightWave 3D. LightWave fits the bill for any size business from a one-person shop to Hollywood special effects titans with hundreds of animators on staff. Whether you are watching television, browsing the web, reading a magazine, taking in a new movie at the theatre, or watching billboards and buildings go by on the highway on your way to work, you are encountering work produced or visualised using LightWave 3D.

This astonishing software features fast, efficient 3D modelling tools, photo-real rendering with 999 free render nodes, enhanced character animation tools, faster inverse kinematics than previous versions, a new morph mixer, a brand new suite of bone-modelling tools, and more.

HOW TO ENTER. To win this amazing prize, simply tell us a story. It can be a happy story or sad, funny, tragic, romantic or exciting. The only limit is that you must tell it without words. LightWave 3D puts incredible visual tools in your hands, so we want you to prove that you can use them to good effect. Send in a story board or comic-strip style narrative, telling a story in no more than seven frames. The frames must be completely text-free, except for a title and your contact details. The best story will win the software you need to make your story come to three-dimensional life. Send hand-drawn stories to "Story board", *Australian Macworld*, 3/165 Fitzroy Street St Kilda, Victoria 3182 or scan them and send by e-mail to matthew.powell@niche.com.au with the subject header "Story board". Entries must be received by the close of business on Wednesday the 25th of August 2004.

Conditions of entry. Instructions on "How to enter" form part of the conditions of entry. Employees of Niche Publishing (ABN 13 164 613 529) or New Magic Australia (ABN 57 100 704 416), their immediate families and agencies are not eligible to enter. The competition opens at 9am on 28 July 2004 and closes at 5pm on 25 August 2004. Entries received outside these times will not be accepted. Entry is by post to "Story board", *Australian Macworld*, Level 3, 165 Fitzroy Street St Kilda Victoria 3182 or by e-mail to matthew.powell@niche.com.au with the subject header "Story board". Entries will be judged on skill and creativity — chance plays no part in this competition. Judges' decision is final. You must include your full mailing address in order to be eligible. The prize consists of one copy of LightWave 3D, valued at $2799. Winners' names will be published in the October 2004 issue of *Australian Macworld*, on sale 29 September.

Ratings key

Outstanding	
Very good	
Good	
Flawed	
Unacceptable	
Dangerous	

Microsoft Office 2004

Word 2004

Upgrade streamlines program but can confuse users

Microsoft Word has always represented a struggle between two aspects at odds: a clean, simple interface and a teeming mass of undiscovered features – some of them treasures, and others that are just plain clunky. This year's incarnation, Microsoft Word 2004, brings some new, interesting ways to work, such as the Notebook Layout view with audio notes. Microsoft has tackled the discoverability factor by adding new buttons and Formatting Palette panels. At the same time, other features, such as Track Changes, have become clunkier.

In your notes. If you still use a spiral notebook for taking notes, this version of Word may herald your time to digitise. The Notebook Layout view resembles a notebook, with its lined-paper look and divider tabs (see the screenshot "Taking note"). The Note Levels feature lets you drag and drop notes hierarchically. There are also disclosure triangles for expanding and collapsing subordinate points, and clear markers for moving or selecting individual note points – all of which make for a much more attractive, and OS X-like, way of navigating an outline than Word's Outline view.

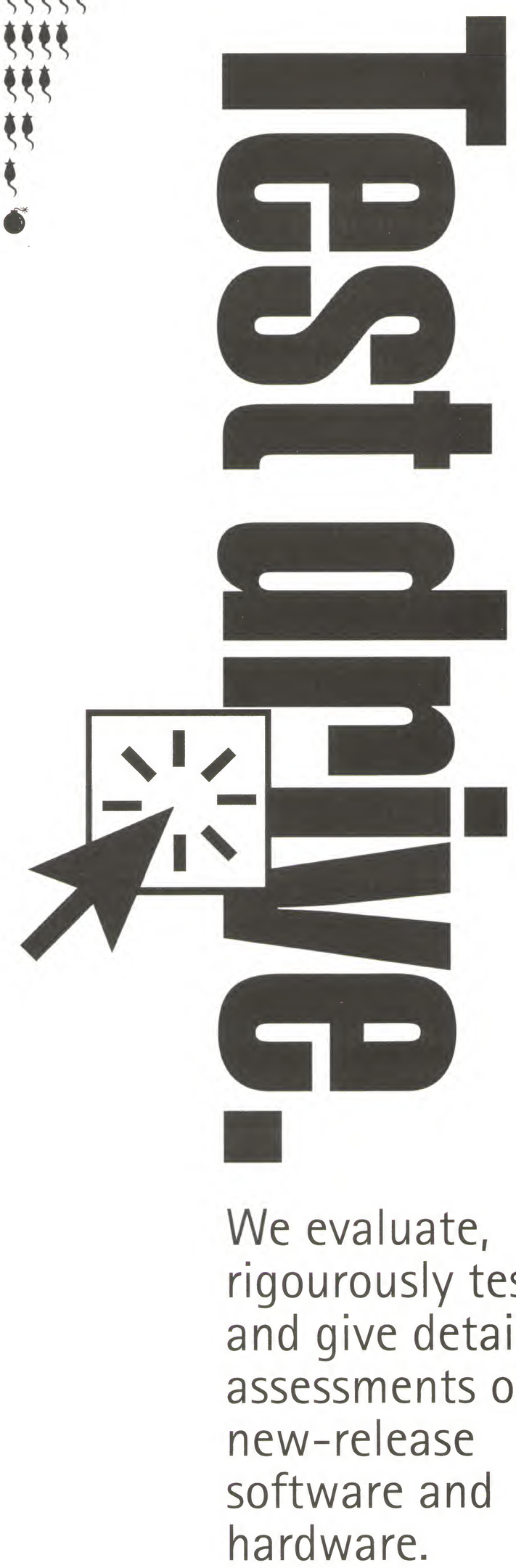
In addition to letting you type text into your document, Word 2004 supports Apple's Ink technology in Panther and Jaguar, so you can write on a graphics tablet and watch your letters turn into text.

There are even more ways to get notes into Word 2004. Using the Audio Notes feature in the Notebook Layout view, you just click on the Record button to start recording. (You need a microphone, but they're not hard to find – and most Apple laptops have a built-in mike.) If you're recording and taking minimal notes concurrently, Word will associate sections of the recording with each new bullet point. Click on the speaker icon next to a note to play back the audio that supplements that note.

Only two toolbars appear in Notebook Layout view: a standard Notebook Layout toolbar and an Audio Notes toolbar. Features such as Word Count and the ability to select heading styles aren't available in this view, and Word Count even disappears from the pared-down Tools menu. The interface may be clean, but these omissions reduce this view's usefulness, because you have to spend extra time switching into a different view to use familiar tools.

You can convert any existing Word document into Notebook Layout view when you open it, but you will lose formatting, including most text styles, paragraph indents, and bulleted lists.

Despite its few quirks, the Notebook Layout view gives you a streamlined note-taking tool that's perfect for students, businesspeople, and news reporters.



Navigating with ease. Clicking on the new Navigation Pane icon in the Standard toolbar opens a pane of thumbnails, much like those in OS X's Preview app. This pane can help you move around in long documents containing many illustrations or other objects (it's less useful in a text-heavy document, where all the thumbnails will look the same). The Navigation Pane also includes a document map consisting of key text in your document, which provides an easy shortcut for finding your way through a long document.

Buttons with smarts. Word's new Smart Buttons are time-savers that reduce the number of trips you have to make to the menu bar or to Word's preferences. When you paste text, a clipboard icon appears next to it (see the screenshot "Taking Note"). Click on this icon and choose from a contextual menu how you want to format the pasted text. The contextual menu goes away

Test drive.

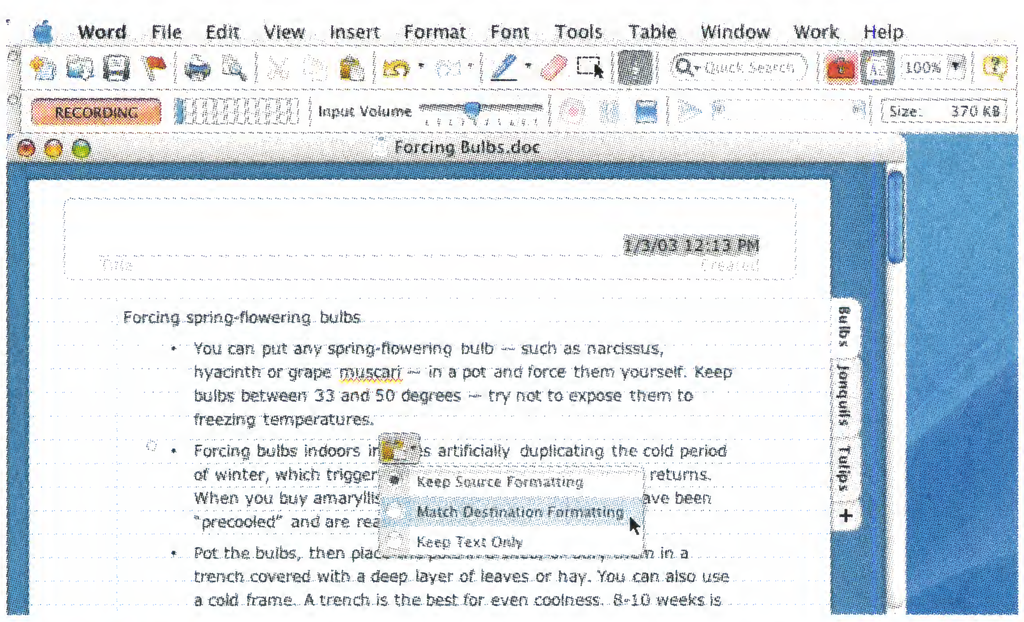
	Word 2004	Excel 2004
■ Type	Word processor	Spreadsheet application
■ Rating	4½	4
■ Pros	Excellent Notebook Layout view; incredibly useful Audio Notes feature; redesigned toolbars; Smart Buttons make Word's power more accessible	Useful new Page Layout view; expanded Formatting Palette; much improved formula-input method
■ Cons	Some features missing in certain views; differences between views can be confusing; unintuitive Track Changes and Comments	No support for Mac OS X Services; occasional display glitches
■ OS X	Only	
■ RRP	Suite costs $699 for Standard Edition, $299 for Student and Teacher Edition; Upgrade from Office 98 or later costs $239; Word and Excel are available separately for $449 each, or $199 upgrade from Office 98 or later or stand alone versions of Word or Excel 98 or later	
■ Publisher	Microsoft	
■ Distributor	Microsoft Australia	
■ Reviewer	Nan Barber	Rob Griffiths
■ Hot links	www.microsoft.com/mac	

as soon as you start typing or resume working in the document, so it won't get in your way. (You will also find Smart Buttons in Excel 2004.)

As you type a word that Word is autocorrecting, a blue underline with a small triangle appears briefly under that word. If you click on it, you'll see a menu where you can return to what you were originally typing, tell Word to stop autocorrecting, or open the AutoCorrect dialog box. This is a nice solution to the frustration Word sometimes causes by, say, immediately autoformatting your bulleted list.

Palette gets a lift. The Formatting Palette is often the centre point of using Word X, and it's even more feature-rich in Word 2004. The new Add Objects pane lets you add photos, movies, and other items previously found only in the Insert menu. Tabs at the top offer one-click access to AutoText entries – such as the date – as well as symbols, clip art, WordArt text, shapes, and new fill-in-yourself objects such as preformatted calendars and checklists.

The Formatting Palette also has a new Styles pane, which brings some features buried in the Style dialog box out into the open, such as the ability to create a new style. The drawback is that using this pane to select a style may take longer than using the simple Style pop-up menu that used to appear in the Font section of the palette.


Word File Edit View Insert Format Font Tools Table Window Work Help
RECORDING
Input Volume
Size: 370 KB
Forcing Bulbs.doc
1/3/03 12:13 PM
Forcing spring-flowering bulbs
You can put any spring-flowering bulb -- such as narcissus, hyacinth or grape muscari -- in a pot and force them yourself. Keep bulbs between 33 and 50 degrees -- try not to expose them to freezing temperatures.
Forcing bulbs indoors i s artificially duplicating the cold period of winter, which trigger returns. When you buy amaryllis ave been "precooled" and are rea
Keep Source Formatting
Match Destination Formatting
Keep Text Only
Pot the bulbs, then plac in a trench covered with a deep layer of leaves or hay. You can also use a cold frame. A trench is the best for even coolness. 8-10 weeks is
Bulbs
Jonquils
Tulips

Taking note. The Smart Paste button, shown here in Word 2004's Notebook Layout view, saves you trips to the toolbar.

Changes to tracking. If you're a Track Changes user, you've surely clicked on the little green TRK button in the Status bar to turn Track Changes on and off, to wrist-cramping effect. You'll be glad to see the big Track Changes button on the remodelled Reviewing toolbar.

Instead of choosing three menu options in the Accept Or Reject Changes dialog box to see your document in its unaltered condition or its final state, you can now swiftly choose from a new Markup menu on the Reviewing toolbar.

The Show menu, next to the Markup menu, also makes it easy to view edits and comments from a specific reviewer. It also gives you more choices for what types of changes you'd like to see or hide.

In previous versions of Word, deleted words appeared by default as strike-through text (crossed out with a single line). Now the default setting is that the old word merely changes colour, and the new word is italicised. You can still tell what's going on, but it can be very confusing. (Fortunately, you can change the Track Changes options to bring back the strike-through style.)

Most of the time, you'll review tracked edits in the main body of the document. However, if you're hooked on the Comments feature, some of the changes to it may offer a less-than-happy surprise. Now called the Reviewing Pane, the Comments pane used to offer a neat list of comments, delineated by each reviewer's initials. Now, comments and text edits are mushed together in a confusing list, with different sections for comments located in the main document, footnotes, and so on. The inability to click on a comment in Normal view and have Word jump to that comment in the Reviewing Pane is maddening. This new list is convenient if you're a grad student and your documents contain tonnes of footnotes, but it's superfluous and distracting for almost everyone else.

A clearer way to view comments is to switch to Page Layout view, where comments appear in balloons (colour-coded by reviewer) along the right side of the page, with lines connecting them to the corresponding word or phrase.

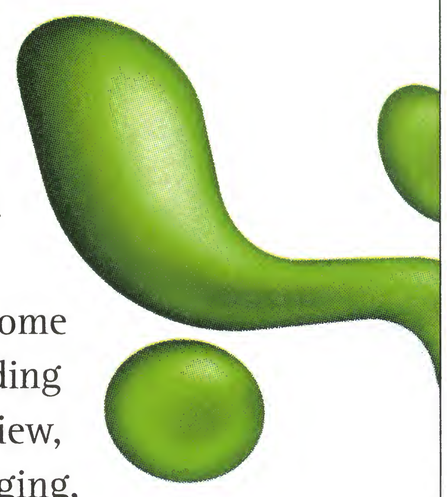
Australian Macworld's buying advice. This new version of Word has some big new features that will motivate many Office users to upgrade. The Notebook Layout view will be enough for many people who don't need a more involved program designed specifically for this task. However, if you're a heavy user of the Track Changes and Comments features in Word X, the changes in Word 2004 might not impress you. Because Word 2004 keeps the old features in place (Outline View and the Clipboard) while adding the new ones (Notebook Layout view and the Scrapbook), you may not need to invest in the latest version.

PowerPoint 2004	Entourage 2004
Presentation software	E-mail and personal information manager
♦♦♦♦	♦♦♦♦
Presenter Tools manage on-screen presentations; expanded Formatting Palette simplifies workflow; improved graphics	Improved junk-mail filtering; useful project tracking
No path-based animation; can't customise keyboard shortcuts; no security features	Minor e-mail bugs; somewhat inflexible archiving

Franklin N Tessler — Tom Negrino

Excel 2004

Venerable program evolves nicely



For those whose data analysis needs are anything but simple, Microsoft Excel is a mainstay. Though AppleWorks and ComGrafix's RagTime both have spreadsheet modules, Excel has the rich feature set and Windows compatibility that number-crunchers have come to rely on.

If you're familiar with prior versions of Excel, you'll feel right at home in Excel 2004; Microsoft has kept the best of prior releases while adding productivity-enhancing new features, including a Page Layout view, Smart Buttons that help with common tasks such as formula debugging, and nice-looking chart-formatting options.

What's new? Substantial improvements lie hidden beneath Excel's familiar surface. Like its siblings in Office 2004, Excel 2004 has a Toolbox icon that gives you access to the Office-wide Project Center, checks compatibility with other versions of Office, and opens the Scrapbook to store often-used text and graphics.

The first thing you'll notice in Excel is the default Page Layout view — it looks nothing like the views in prior versions of Excel. The active page is white, while the others are greyed out until clicked on. If you're an advanced Excel user, you may find this view takes some getting used to — your 36-column-wide report, for instance, will now have visible page-break gaps. Luckily, the old Normal view is available in the View menu. If you can get accustomed to it, though, the Page Layout view shows you exactly how your spreadsheet will print out.

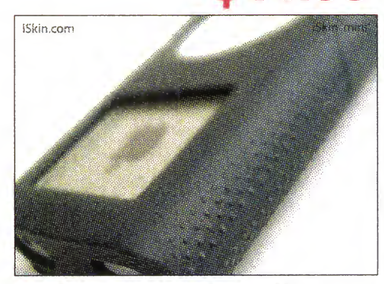
The Formatting Palette is much improved in Excel 2004. You may actually first notice it when you're not using it — it fades to semi-transparent when it's inactive, and becomes opaque again when you mouse over it. Although transparency helps reduce the palette's visual intrusiveness, you can't select cells behind it. Through the Customize Formatting Palette option, you can instead have the palette minimise when it's not in use, which gets it completely out of the way.

Like Word and PowerPoint 2004, Excel 2004 puts Add Objects in the Formatting Palette, making it easy to insert charts, symbols, shapes, lines, and text shapes. Choose one of the objects, and Excel places it on the worksheet. Finally, the Page Setup section of the palette includes a new Orientation area with buttons that you can use to easily toggle between Portrait and Landscape mode. The Print Scaling options in this section give you full control over your spreadsheet's print layout. These changes reduce the time that you used to spend activating menus, viewing print previews, and memorising shortcut keys for various symbols.

The downside to this revised palette is its size. With a graphic selected, for instance, the fully expanded Formatting Palette is taller than the 1280-pixel height of my 23-inch Apple

Mac Games & Peripherals

iSkin mini **$44.95**



Crafted from durable form-fitting silicone, the iSkin mini provides superior protection against damages and scratches that may occur from everyday use, and features side "goose bumps" for increased anti-slip grip. The iSkin mini includes an ultra-clear screen protector and a newly designed iSkin RevoClip that allows users to rotate the iPod without removing it from their waist.

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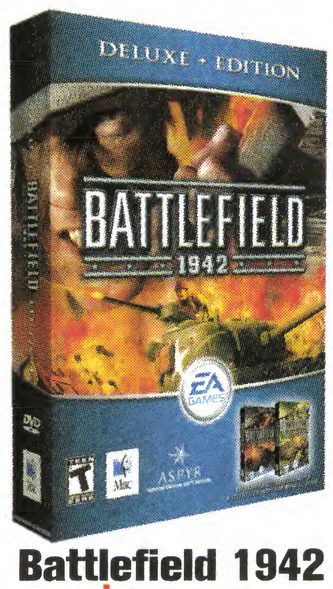
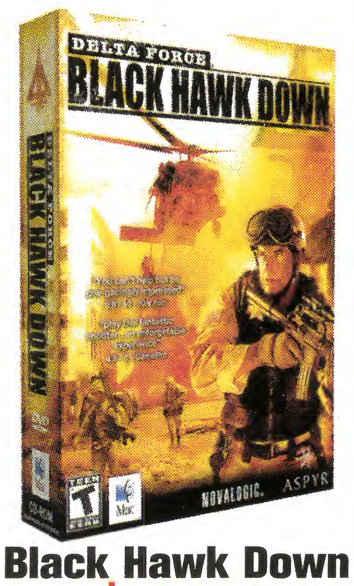
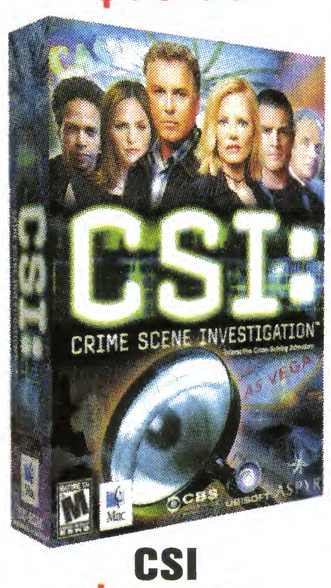


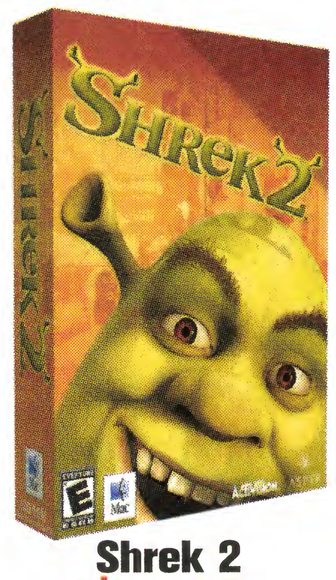
Battlefield 1942
$69.95



Black Hawk Down
$59.95



CSI
$44.95



Shrek 2
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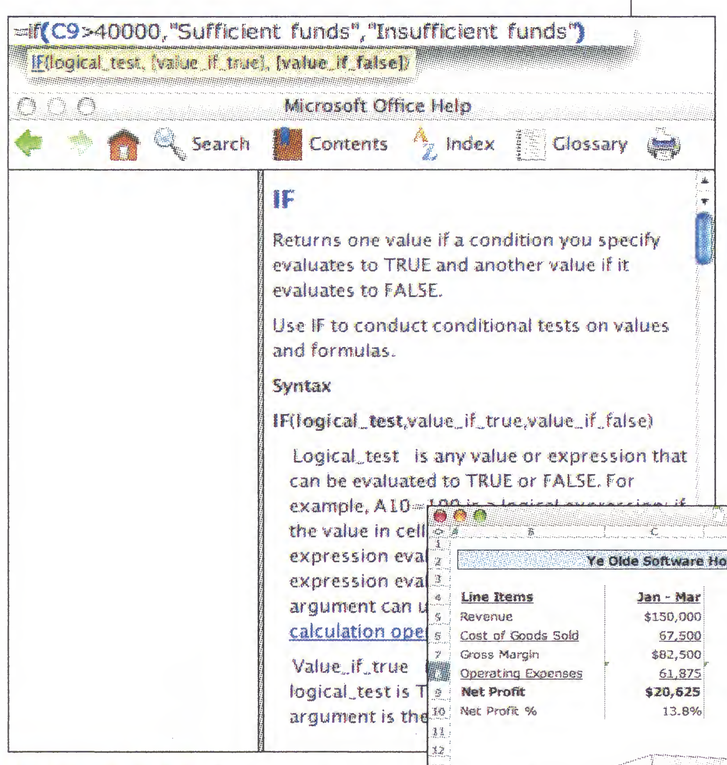
* Pictures for illustration purposes only.

Cinema Display. When I'm working on a PowerBook, I have to click a lot on the Formatting Palette's disclosure triangles to reveal and hide the various sections within the available screen space.

Charts turn professional. If you use only the Formatting Palette's Add Objects section to insert charts in Excel 2004, you'll miss out on some cool new looks for your charts. In the Custom Types area of the Chart dialog box (Insert: Chart), you'll find an assortment of new, very professional-looking templates. So instead of a boring Pie from the Standard Types area, you can go for the 3D Anodized Pie to bring your data to life.



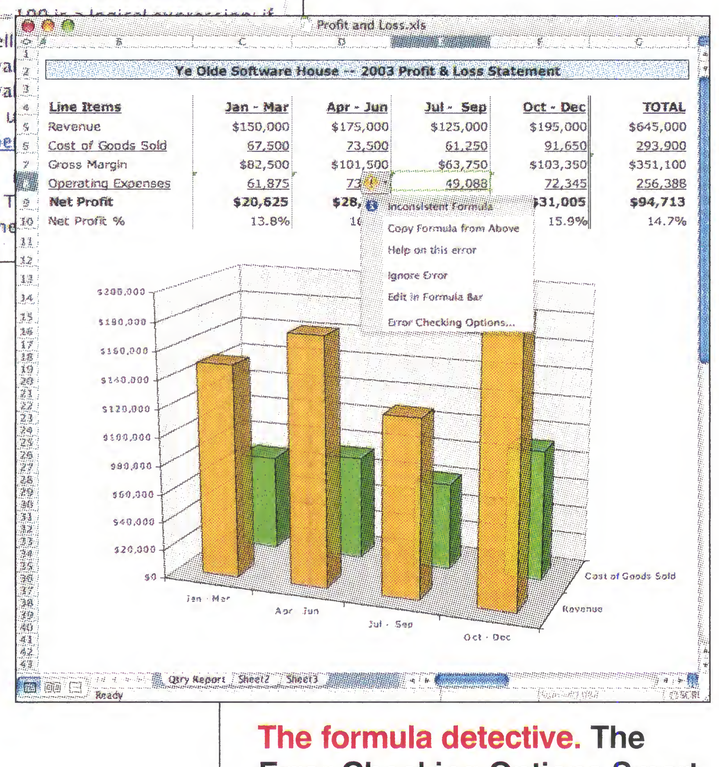
Memory aids. Function ScreenTips appear whenever you're entering a formula, and help you remember the proper order for a given formula's operators. If that's not enough, full help is just a second away — click on the hyperlinked formula name.

Get smart buttons.

Microsoft calls them Smart Buttons. You'll probably just call them amazing. What are they? They are buttons — Auto Fill Options, Insert Options, Paste Options, and Error Checking Options — that pop up when Excel senses a need for them. For instance, when a formula contains an error, you'll see the Error Checking Options button.

If you've ever copied and pasted a formula from a cell when you actually meant to paste just the cell's formatting, you'll appreciate the Paste Options button. Instead of having to undo what you did and paste again using the Paste Special: Formats option, you can click on the Paste Options button (which suddenly pops into existence when you paste) and select Formatting Only from the pop-up menu. The contents of your destination cells will instantly revert, but they will retain the formatting from the copied range. You can also use the pop-up menu to choose other options, such as pasting values or applying the source's column width when pasting.

The Error Checking Options button can help you find subtle errors in spreadsheets — the kind that you may not notice during development, but that your boss will somehow zero in on when it's time to review your work. When Excel detects a potential error in a formula, such as references to blank cells or inconsistency with neighbouring formulas, it flags the formula and displays a yellow caution sign whenever the cell is active. Click on the caution sign, and Excel pops up a menu to help you resolve the problem (see the screenshot "The formula detective"). If all is fine with the formula, select Ignore Error from the pop-up menu, and Excel will remove the flag. In practice, Excel flags more cells than necessary, but it's easy enough to clear the false positives.


Profit and Loss.xls
Ye Olde Software House -- 2003 Profit & Loss Statement
Line Items | Jan - Mar | Apr - Jun | Jul - Sep | Oct - Dec | TOTAL
Revenue | $150,000 | $175,000 | $125,000 | $195,000 | $645,000
Cost of Goods Sold | 67,500 | 73,500 | 61,250 | 91,650 | 293,900
Gross Margin | $82,500 | $101,500 | $63,750 | $103,350 | $351,100
Operating Expenses | 61,875 | 73 | 49,088 | 72,345 | 256,388
Net Profit | $20,625 | $28, | | $31,005 | $94,713
Net Profit % | 13.8% | 1 | | 15.9% | 14.7%
Inconsistent Formula
Copy Formula from Above
Help on this error
Ignore Error
Edit in Formula Bar
Error Checking Options...
$200,000
$180,000
$160,000
$140,000
$120,000
$100,000
$80,000
$60,000
$40,000
$20,000
$0
Jan - Mar
Apr - Jun
Jul - Sep
Oct - Dec
Cost of Goods Sold
Revenue
Qtry Report
Sheet2
Sheet3
Ready

The formula detective. The Error Checking Options Smart Button helps you find mistakes in formulas. Here it's pointing out that the formula in this cell isn't consistent with those of the neighbouring cells.

Refresh your memory. Excel has hundreds of formulas, many of which have a complex, hard-to-memorise syntax. The new Function ScreenTips feature makes entering even the most obscure formula simple. Start typing a formula and the Function ScreenTip appears below the cell, showing the basic syntax for each portion of the formula. Click on the hyperlinked formula name in the ScreenTip, and you'll see Excel's formula-specific help page (see the screenshot "Memory aids"). ScreenTips take up very little screen real estate (Excel X's bulky Formula Palette is still available if you wish to use it), and they usually provide just the amount of detail you need to complete a formula without even opening the help files.

Speed and performance.

Testing a complex spreadsheet on both a 1.25GHz PowerBook G4 with 768MB of RAM and a dual-2GHz Power Mac G5 with 2.5GB of RAM, I found that application launch times, recalculation speed, and scrolling speed were equal to or quicker than those of Excel X on the same machines. In many hours of testing, I didn't experience a single crash, which speaks well for Excel 2004's stability.

Although I experienced no major problems with the program, I did see an occasional graphical glitch, such as a distorted Smart Button and text that wasn't anti-aliased after I switched between Excel and other running applications (scrolling the document fixed these problems). The lack of support for Mac OS X's Services menu is disappointing — Carbon applications (BBEdit, for instance) are quite capable of supporting services. So for example, it's harder than it should be to create a note in Stickies from an Excel cell entry (you'd use a simple ⌘-shift-Y to do this if services were available).

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(From far left) The 3.5" MantaRay, 3.5" IceCube, 2.5" Clearlight and 2.5" DaisyCutter models are shown.

	ADVC-55	ADVC-300	DAC-100	Studio DV
■ Type	Analogue to digital video converter	Bi-directional video coverter		
■ Rating	4	4½	4½	4
■ Pros	Compact; very good video quality; some control over sound level; can run off FireWire power; metal case is very rugged; inexpensive	Best video quality; software allows control over video and audio capture	Excellent video quality; reasonable price; two six-pin FireWire ports	Good video quality; can run off FireWire power
■ Cons	Only converts one way; no external power adapter	At the price, only for professionals	Confusing documentation	No external power adapter supplied; larger case than the others; bit pricey
■ OS X	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
■ RRP	$399	$999	$449	$589
■ Manufacturer		Canopus	Canopus	Datavideo Formac
■ Distributor	Canopus Australia 03 9885 5888	Canopus Australia 03 9885 5888	GDB International 02 6281 5483	Powermove 03 9499 2744
■ Reviewer	Matthew JC. Powell			
■ Hot links	www.canopus-aust.com.au	www.canopus-aust.com.au	www.gdbint.com.au	www.power.com.au

Digital-video converters

Bridge the analogue divide

Converting your shelves full of analogue videotapes to DVD is not a task to be undertaken lightly, as the feature in The Hub this issue shows. As simple as Apple makes the process, there's still a great deal of work you have to do to get the right result.

For that reason and others, you shouldn't trust your memories to the pass-through mode on your camcorder – the results are rarely worth keeping. Likewise you shouldn't just grab the first DV converter you see on the shelf. Different units provide different advantages in price, features and quality.

Space does not allow a comprehensive test of every DV converter on the market (a list can be found in The Hub on page 47), so we looked at a representative sample from the relatively inexpensive Canopus ADVC-55 and Datavideo DAC-100 to the high-end Canopus ADVC-300, as well as the mid-range Formac Studio DV.

What you get. All of these allow conversion from analogue to DV format and most will also take your finished iMovie or Final Cut Pro project back to VHS. The exception is the Canopus ADVC-55, which only converts from analogue to digital.

All of the units are also provided with a FireWire cable for connecting the unit to your Mac, and all have Composite and S-Video connectors for plugging in a VCR or camcorder. The DAC-100 is the only one that has two six-pin FireWire connectors, one on the front and one on the back. This allows it to act as a FireWire repeater.

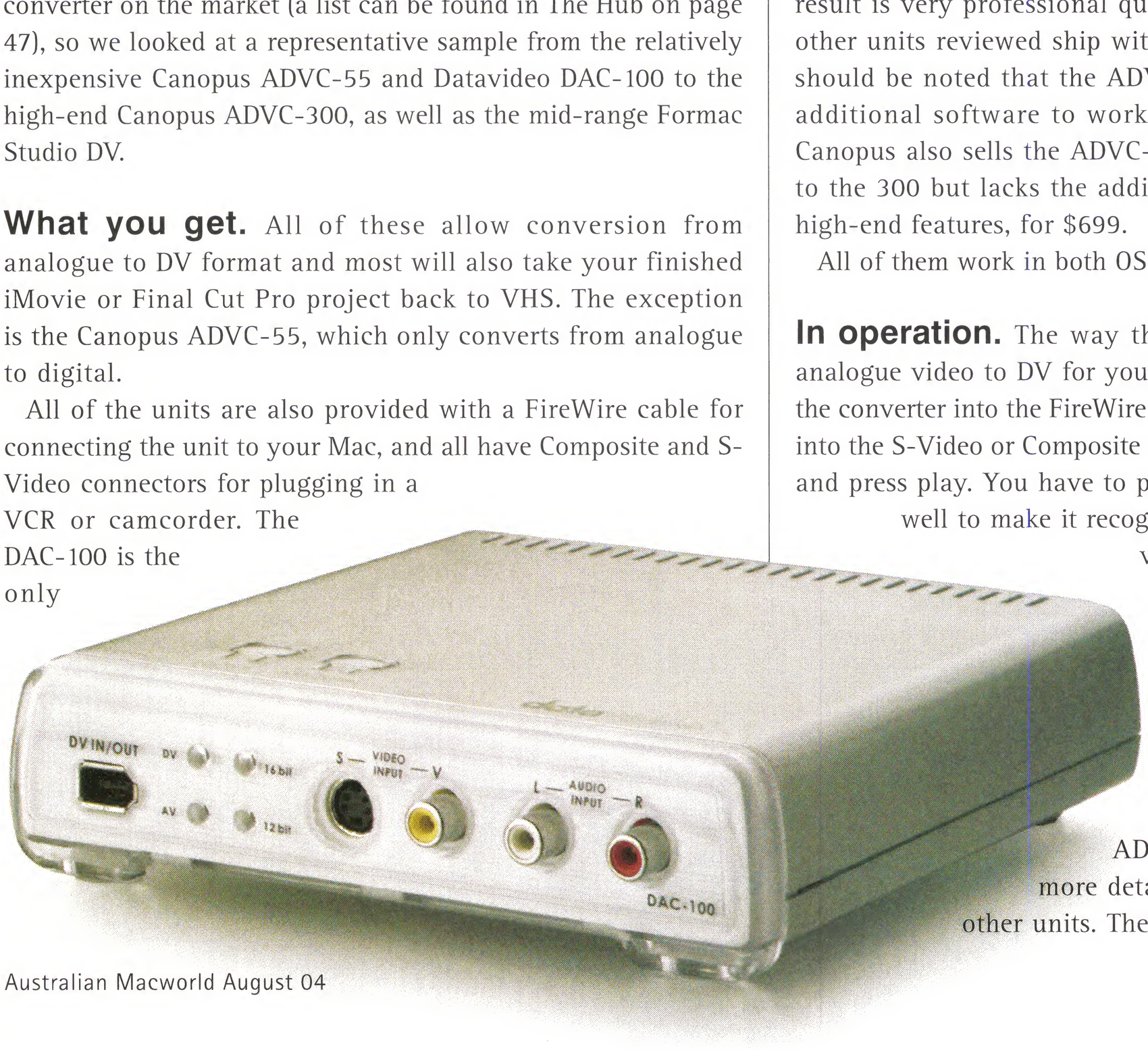
All except the ADVC-55 and the Studio DV come with an external power supply – they draw power from the Mac's FireWire bus. This is handy in terms of limiting the number of cables on your desk, but isn't very useful if, for instance, you want to copy a VHS tape on to a DV camcorder that doesn't have analogue inputs so your Mac is not involved. It also means that if you're working on a PowerBook you have to be plugged into mains to ensure a steady power supply for the converter. (In the US the DAC-100 also ships without an external power supply, but local distributor GDB International adds one.)

The other notable exception is the software that ships with the ADVC-300. This enables a great deal of fine control over brightness levels, contrast and a number of other settings. The result is very professional quality in the imported video. The other units reviewed ship with no additional software, and it should be noted that the ADVC-300 doesn't actually require additional software to work – it just works better with it. Canopus also sells the ADVC-100, which is virtually identical to the 300 but lacks the additional software and a few other high-end features, for $699.

All of them work in both OS X and OS 9.

In operation. The way the units work when converting analogue video to DV for your Mac is basically identical. Plug the converter into the FireWire port on your Mac, plug your VCR into the S-Video or Composite ports on the front, start up iMovie and press play. You have to press play or Import in iMovie as well to make it recognise the converter, but then your video should appear in the iMovie window. iMovie had no trouble recognising the input from any of the devices we tested.

The video from the Canopus boxes was best, with rich, saturated blacks and clear, bright colours. Tweaking the ADVC-300 allowed me to extract more detail from shadowy areas than the other units. The DAC-100 wasn't far behind, but

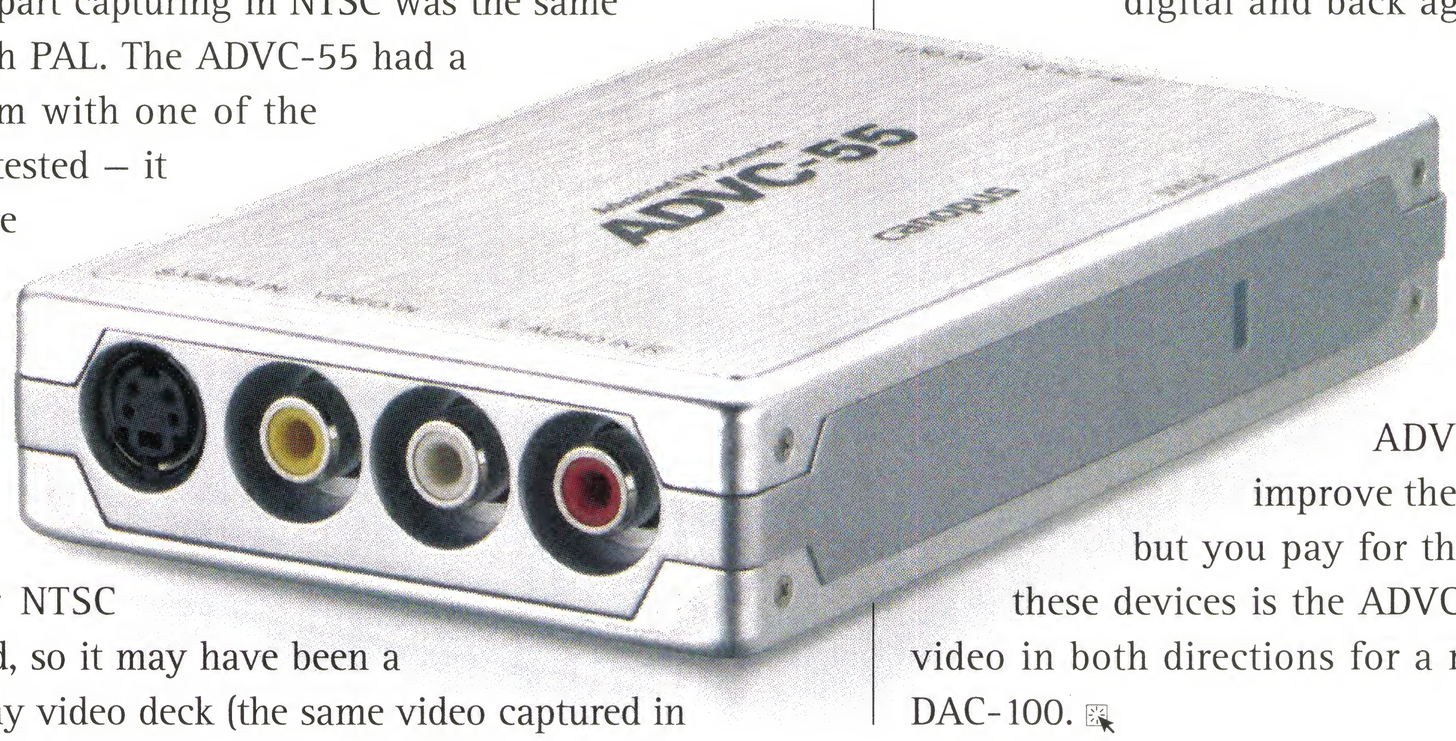


its blacks seemed a bit washed out. The Studio DV provided great blacks but the colours seemed darker than I would have liked. This was less noticeable on a TV, but a bit distressing on the PowerBook's screen.

Audio is a mixed bag. With the Studio DV and DAC-100 you have no control over the volume or quality of audio capture, so you're stuck with what little flexibility your capture software allows. For the most part this still provides adequate results and most problems can be fixed in post-production (as they say in the business). Both Canopus units allowed a degree of control: the 55 has a DIP switch on the bottom that boosts audio by 15dB, and the 300 has software tweaks. The switch on the 55 is handy if the source audio is quiet (as is often the case with camcorder-recorded movies) but doesn't allow for peaks – sudden loud sections sounded very distorted and needed to be captured again with the boost off.

All of the units are capable of handling both PAL and the American NTSC video system. It's a matter of flipping one or two DIP switches to decide which system you wish to use, and of course making sure that your settings in iMovie and iDVD are set appropriately. It's a capability that may not be useful for many people, but if you've moved from the US, or have relatives over there who like to send videos, it's a godsend.

For the most part capturing in NTSC was the same as working with PAL. The ADVC-55 had a strange problem with one of the NTSC videos I tested – it wouldn't capture in colour. The video changed to black and white once captured. This didn't happen with the other NTSC video I captured, so it may have been a problem with my video deck (the same video captured in colour using all of the other units though). The Studio DV also had a slight hiccup, with the video appearing jerky and blurred during capture. Once captured, the video played back perfectly well.



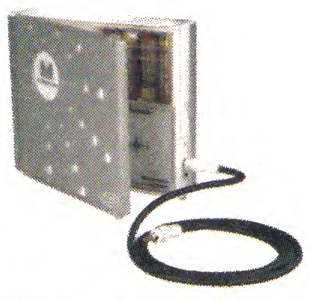
Let's get physical. Most of the units are roughly the same size and shape, and don't take up terribly much room on your desk (or sit quite merrily on top of your VHS deck). The exceptions to this rule are the ADVC-55 and the Studio DV.

The ADVC-55, which only converts one way, is considerably smaller than the other units – a little bigger than an iPod. This, plus the fact that it can run off the FireWire bus without any external power supply, makes it an ideal on-the road companion – a task its designers no doubt had in mind when they put it in a rugged metal enclosure. All of the other units are plastic.

The Studio DV, on the other hand, is rather bigger than the other units. It looks almost identical to Formac's excellent Studio tvr, reviewed a couple of issues ago. Like the ADVC-55 it doesn't require an external power supply, which saves a little desk space, but you wouldn't call it portable. For the price, Formac's customers would be well advised to look at the Studio tvr – for not much more money you get a device with a TV tuner so you can record your favourite shows in DV format on your hard drive as well as converting video from analogue to digital and back again.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. All of these products provide excellent video and audio quality, presuming your source material is good enough. The ADVC-300 is best for tweaking to improve the quality of poor source material, but you pay for that extra power. My favourite of these devices is the ADVC-55, but if you want to convert video in both directions for a reasonable price I'd suggest the DAC-100.

Music to your ears...

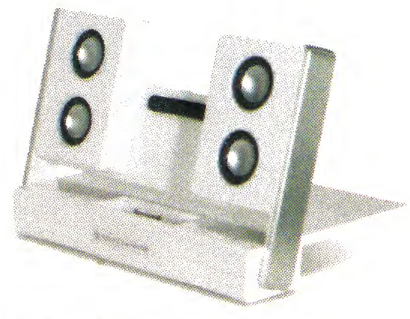


Monster Cable
iSpeaker Portable

Monster Cable
iCarPlay FM
Transmiter/Charger

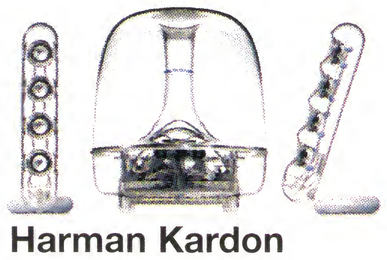
Monster Cable
iCable

Ten Technology
naviPod
Remote Control



AltecLansing
inMotion Speakers

JBL
Creature II Speakers
Grey or White



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■ Type	**Graphics application**
■ Rating	**4½**
■ Pros	**Intuitive interface; creates movies and stills; glorious results**
■ Cons	**Slow animation and rendering times; no vegetation; scenes are somewhat unrealistic**
■ OS X	**Yes**
■ RRP	**$US129**
■ Publisher	**U&I Software**
■ Distributor	**Available online**
■ Reviewer	**Christopher Breen**
■ Hot links	**www.uisoftware.com**

ArtMatic Voyager 1.1

Bryce-like landscape generation returns to the Mac

U&I's landscape-generation application, ArtMatic Voyager 1.1.2, nearly caused me to miss my deadline. Voyager is just so much fun that hours evaporate as you happily tweak the scenery – jumping from one location in a preset world to another, raising the altitude here, and making the water a bit more transparent there.

Genesis. If a program that renders spectacular 3D landscapes sounds suspiciously like Bryce (Corel's now-discontinued-on-the-Mac application), it should. Bryce's creator, Eric Wenger, is also the brains behind Voyager. In many ways, Voyager is Bryce Lite. It has the same landscape-creation capabilities as Bryce but lacks its tree-creation and geometric modelling tools, advanced painting and lighting controls, and more-complicated interface. Also, unlike Bryce, all of Voyager's controls are in the program's main window. Using sliders or numeric fields, you can adjust the direction and colour of a world's sun (adding a pink hue for sunsets, for example), ambient light, haze, the height of clouds, and the level of the sea and snow. The program conveniently stops rendering previews when you adjust one of the controls. Voyager ships with four planet surfaces – each of which offers more physical space than the surface of the earth – and you can create additional surface textures with U&I's ArtMatic Pro image-creation application. U&I sells an ArtMatic Pro and ArtMatic Voyager bundle for $US299 via its web site.

Exploring these vast planets is a snap. To move to a new location, click on a small map or on the Dice icon to be transported to a random location. Once there, you can change views by rotating the compass points or using your keyboard's arrow keys to move forward, backward, left, or right.

Pounding the processor. In addition to creating static images, you can select different locations on your map, save each selection as a keyframe, and create a QuickTime movie that animates the journey through each keyframe – giving the impression of moving from one place to another. But note that such functions expose Voyager's biggest weakness.

Creating a scene. Thanks to its intuitive interface, creating stunning landscapes with ArtMatic Voyager takes next to no time.

Rendering images takes all the processing power your Mac can spare. Even a relatively fast Mac can take more than 15 minutes to render a complex still image at the program's default resolution of 2048x1152 pixels, and several hours to produce a 30-second, 15-fps, 320x240 QuickTime movie. For example, the image on this page took just over 18 minutes to render on a 15-inch 1.25GHz PowerBook G4 at Best quality (see the screenshot "Creating a scene"). With the Shadows option enabled, it took Voyager more than two hours to render the same image.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. ArtMatic Voyager 1.1.2 may not fabricate images realistic enough to fool you, but what it does produce is impressive. If you're a graphic designer in need of compelling backdrops or just someone who delights in creating unique desktop pictures, Voyager is worth the trip.

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Type	**Scriptwriting software**
Rating	4½
Pros	**Panel view helps streamline writing by letting you view different parts of a script; many script templates to choose from; Tagger application exports script elements to scheduling software**
Cons	**Buggy**
OS X	**Yes**
RRP	**$475; $425 for Writers' Guild members**
Publisher	**Final Draft**
Distributor	**Like Magic 02 9971 1796**
Reviewer	**Anton Linecker**
Hot links	**www.finaldraft.com**

Final Draft 7

Lacks polish

Final Draft is the industry-standard application for scriptwriters. However, while Final Draft 7 adds a few nice features to the program's repertoire, this buggy new version doesn't live up to its predecessors' good reputation.

The Final Draft workflow has changed little over the last few years, and that's a good thing. The beauty of Final Draft has always been that it streamlined the mechanics of scriptwriting so your brain could concentrate on the story. Version 7 is no different: Switching between character, action, dialogue, and scene formatting is still effortless. Type a character's name and click on Enter, and Final Draft automatically formats the document for a line of dialogue. Its SmartType feature can also automatically fill in established characters' names once you've typed the first letter.

Final Draft 7 is a cross-platform product, so script swapping is easy. Its CollaboWriter feature lets multiple users work on the same script simultaneously, and even chat online about it. The program also provides writers with a set of updated script templates for film, television, and live theatre.

Version 7 lets you view two sections of your script in its Panel view — either side-by-side or stacked one on top of the other. This is helpful because it lets you review one section of a script as you write in another.

Version 7 includes a stand-alone application, called Tagger, that lets you break down and make annotations in a script (for elements such as characters, props, and wardrobe), which can then be exported to movie-production scheduling programs such as Write Brothers' Movie Magic Screenwriter.

While this sounds fantastic, version 7.0.0.33 was filled with bugs. Paging down a script caused the screen to redraw poorly, leaving line artefacts. Cutting and pasting text was hit-or-miss.

The company acknowledged these problems and said that they'd be remedied by the time you read this. Local distributor Like Magic thankfully provides free technical support.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Final Draft 7 needs a lot more work. While the new Panel view and Tagger program are useful, Final Draft 6 users should avoid the upgrade until the kinks are worked out.

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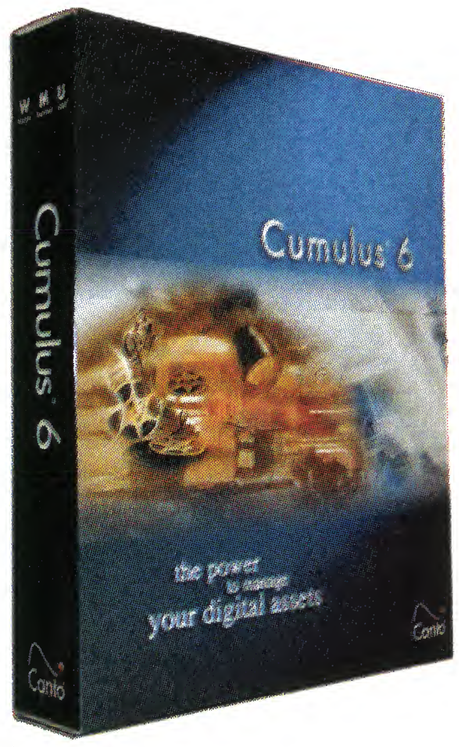

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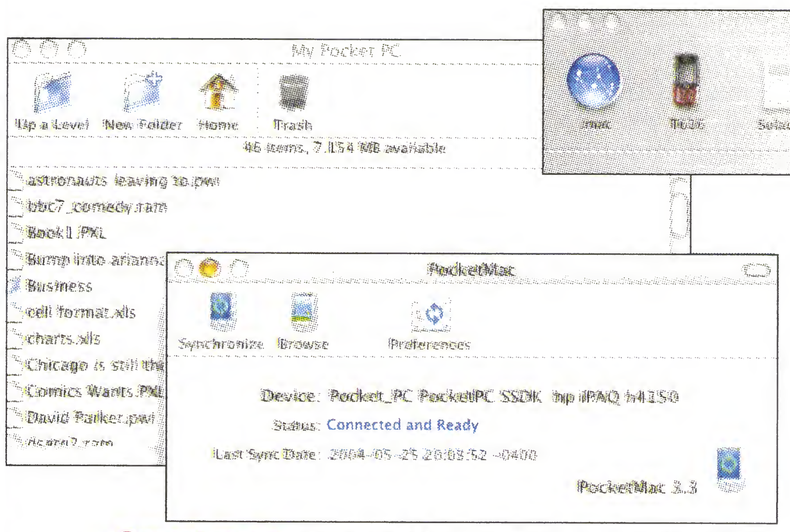
■ Type	**PDA-sync utility**
■ Rating	♦♦♦♦
■ Pros	**Easy to install; brings the greatest number of PocketPC features to the Mac**
■ Cons	**Slightly, but not obnoxiously, unstable; needs tighter integration with Apple apps**
■ OS X	**Only**
■ RRP	**$US42**
■ Publisher	**Information Appliance Associates**
■ Distributor	**Available online**
■ Reviewer	**Andy Ihnatko**
■ **Hot links**	**www.pocketmac.net**

PocketMac Pro 3.3

Supplies Mac functionality to your PDA

Last year we reviewed PocketMac Pro 2.0, the first application that allowed PDAs running Microsoft's Windows-only PocketPC OS to interact with Macs. It didn't make a great impression. Installing and configuring the software was a long, fiddly process that was certain to leave you with a clear understanding of what phrases like "kernel panic" and "stress-related embolism" mean. The program also had a clumsy, amateurish interface, and it let you exploit only a fraction of your PocketPC's features.

What a difference a year makes. PocketMac Pro is now a mature, simple, and feature-rich product. Click to install, restart, plug your PocketPC's cradle into the USB port (or activate a Wi-Fi or Bluetooth connection), and you're ready to sync. Version 3.3 provides two-way sync support for Apple's iCal and Address Book, Microsoft Entourage, and Now Software's Now Up to Date & Contact. The installer creates a new iTunes playlist, iPhoto album, and browser bookmarks folder. Music and photos you drop into these areas will automatically go to the right places on your PocketPC when you sync.



Smart sync. **PocketMac syncs a variety of data, such as songs and web pages, between your Mac and PocketPC**

For all that, PocketMac Pro still has stability problems. The software unexpectedly quit three times (with no loss of data) over the course of a week, and it's not hard to overload the web-content conduit into hanging the app. PocketMac Pro could also stand to have smoother integration with iSync, the Finder, and other Apple apps. PocketMac works well with them, but it's hardly an intimate relationship. For example, it's nice that PocketMac includes a utility that lets you move files between your Mac and your PocketPC, but it would win more style points if it mounted your device in the Finder, like a standard volume.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. PocketMac Pro 3.3 is not the only way to get a PocketPC working with OS X, but its e-mail and web features (as well as its support for PIMs other than Address Book and iCal) give it the edge.

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Type	**Design and DTP package**
Rating	¢¢¢¢
Pros	**Packed with great project templates; easy to use; great integration with Apple applications; scalable vector graphics**
Cons	**Clumsy text controls; small image-editing previews**
OS X	**Only**
RRP	**$90**
Publisher	**Software MacKiev**
Distributor	**Try and Byte 02 9906 5227**
Reviewer	**Kelly Lunsford**
Hot links	**www.tryandbyte.com.au**

The Print Shop Mac OS X Edition 1.0

A Mac classic debuts in OS X

The Print Shop was once a popular design and desktop-publishing package for creating greeting cards, calendars, labels, and similar projects, until hard times in the Mac market saw its originator, Broderbund, discontinue it. Now, thanks to its new developer, Software MacKiev, this long-missed program is back on the Mac and better than ever.

Getting started. The Print Shop offers templates for 14 types of projects, including greeting cards, calendars, CD labels and booklets, letterhead, pamphlets, banners, and business cards. Within each project category are dozens more pre-designed templates, which you can use as a starting point for your own designs or print as they are. You can also start with a blank template if you prefer to step out on your own.

For projects such as labels, which require that you match your designs to a specific paper size or shape, The Print Shop supports a long list of Avery papers. It even includes an Avery Updater, which downloads new Avery templates as they become available.

The Print Shop's template implementation is particularly nice when it comes to designing greeting cards. To design cards so that all elements appear right side up after folding, you often have to position some panels sideways or upside down – no easy task in programs such as Microsoft Word. The Print Shop simplifies this process by dividing cards into three different views – Front, Inside, and Back – so you are always designing right side up.

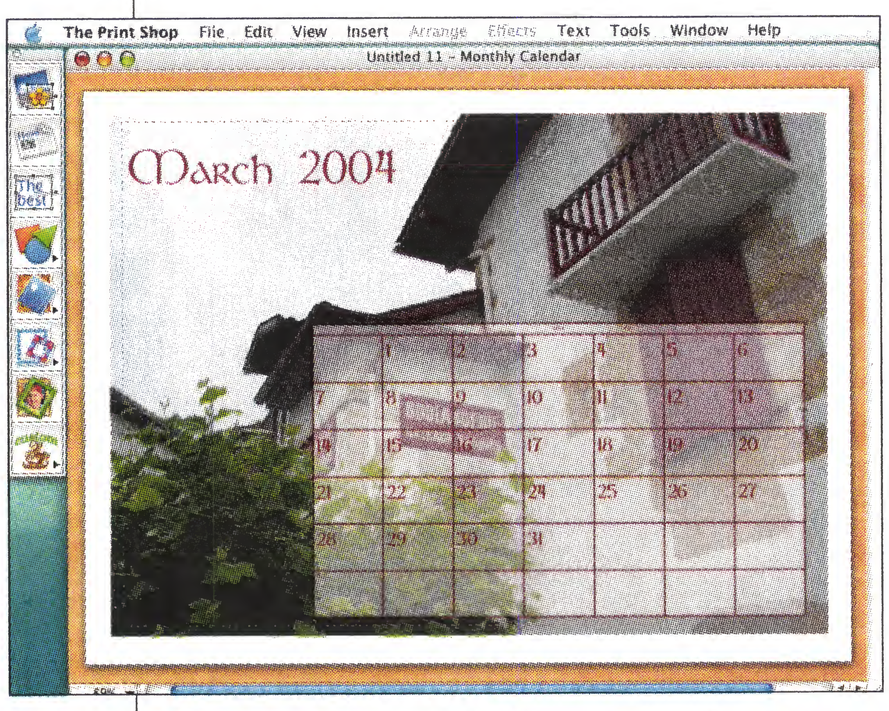
Designing projects. One of the first things you'll notice after opening The Print Shop is how good the program looks. Software MacKiev fully rewrote The Print Shop to take advantage of the power and beauty of Quartz. In The Print Shop, graphics grow and shrink in real time as you drag their edges, making it easy to put photos and clip art into place. You can also zoom in on the workspace simply by expanding the edges of the document window. Aside from photographs, all of the included graphics and text are vector art, so they remain crisp no matter how large or small you make them.

You can use the Objects toolbar to insert photos, text, shapes, borders, or other elements into your layout. The Print Shop has a library of more than 12,000 images, which range from hopelessly cheesy clip-art illustrations to richly detailed photographs. Thankfully, you can narrow search criteria by shape, subject, or type of graphic as you look for something suitable.

You can also import your own photos into Print Shop projects. The Print Shop integrates very nicely with iPhoto. When you select Insert: iPhoto Image, the program displays a list of all your iPhoto albums – including iPhoto 4's Smart Albums.

If your images need to be touched up, you can use The Print Shop's Photo Workshop feature to perform basic colour correction, sharpening, and cropping. In the Fix Flaws section, you'll find tools for correcting red-eye, pet-eye (the green glow that makes your beloved pet appear demonic), dust marks and scratches, and shiny faces – a truly useful tool that is like applying face powder after the fact. You can also apply a variety of Artistic Effects to change or enhance a photo's appearance. All of the Photo Workshop tools work well. However, since there's no way to zoom in on the tiny preview image when adjusting colours or sharpness – two particularly tricky tasks – judging the effectiveness of your work without first applying the changes to your image can be almost impossible. If you don't like what you see, you'll have to undo the changes and start again.

Working with text can be frustrating. To edit text, you must first double-click on the text box, which opens in a white text window. This makes it difficult to work with light-coloured text (though white text turns black and is therefore easy to see). To leave the editing window – so you can adjust text-box size or position – you must click elsewhere on your screen and then reselect the text box.



Make a date. The Print Shop makes it easy to design calendars, cards, and other projects that incorporate your photos.

Apple integration. One thing that really sets The Print Shop apart from similar consumer-oriented design applications is its superb integration with Apple applications. In addition to connecting to iPhoto albums, The Print Shop can also import iCal events into Calendar templates, download song lists from iTunes to use on CD labels, and print mailing labels from Address Book contacts – although the Mail Merge feature is a bit unintuitive. The program even offers DVD-label templates that match Apple's iDVD 3 themes. It's a small touch, but one that shows care and attention to detail.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Despite a few minor inconveniences, The Print Shop Mac OS X Edition 1.0 is a truly elegant application and a great tool for any creative project. Thanks to its many templates and its simplified interface, the program is easy enough for young family members to use and versatile enough to allow for true creativity.

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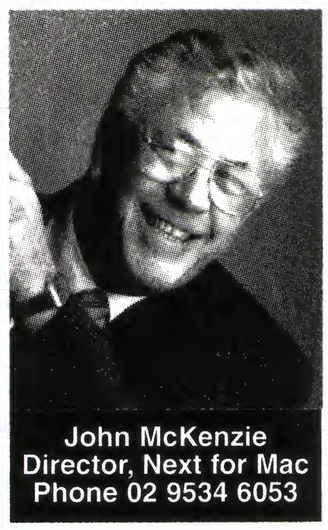

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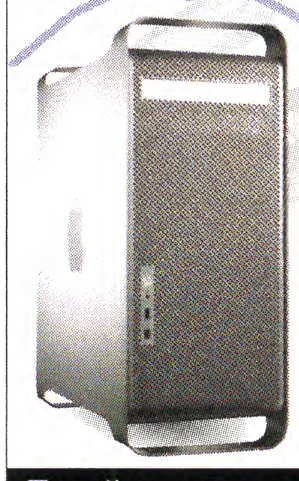

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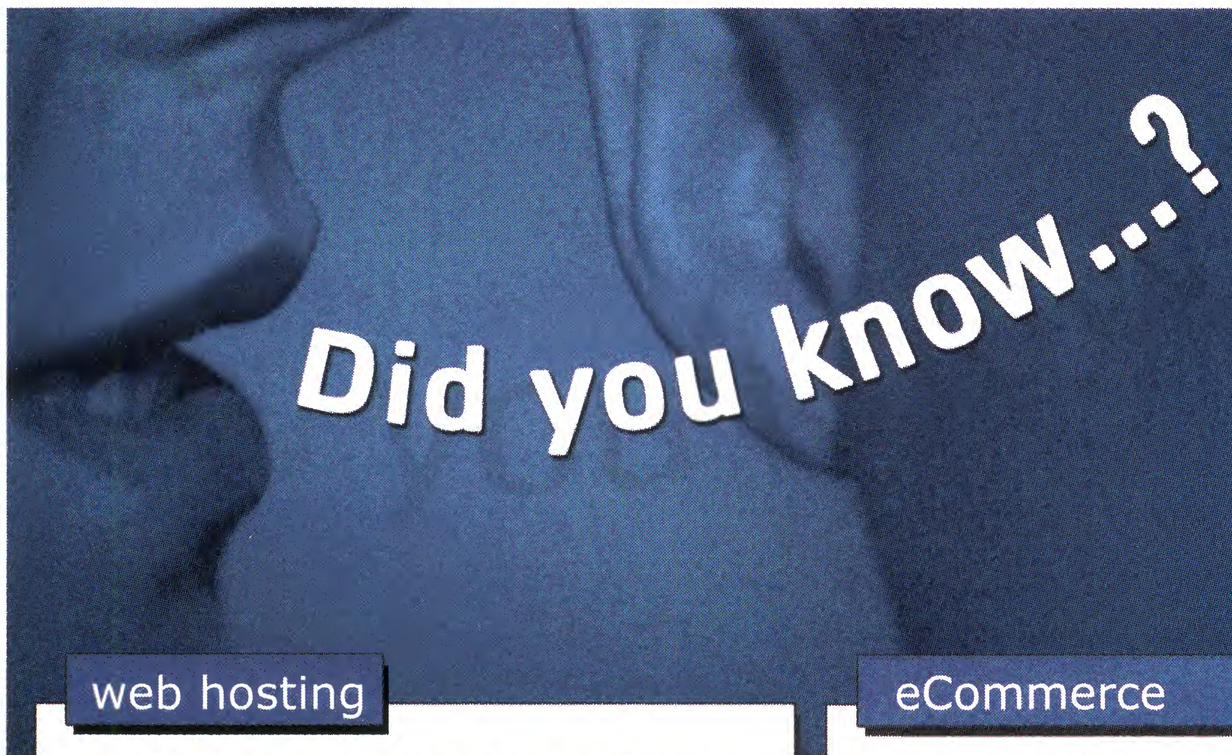

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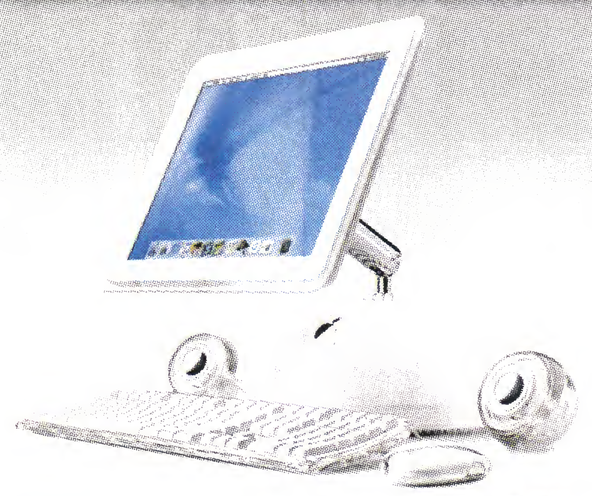

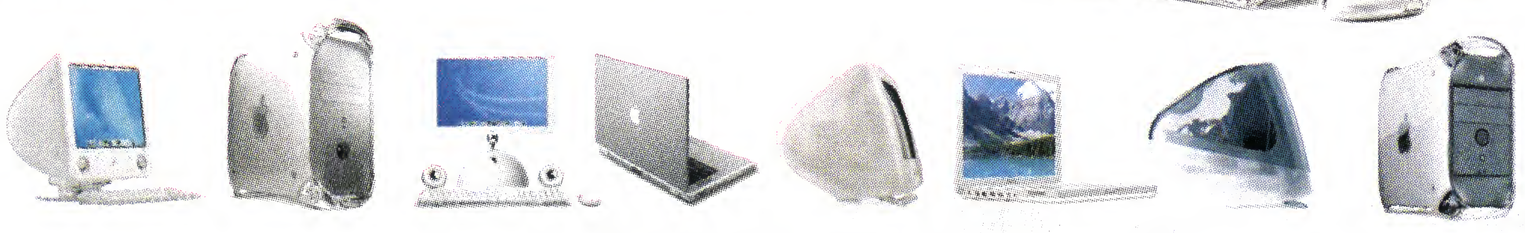

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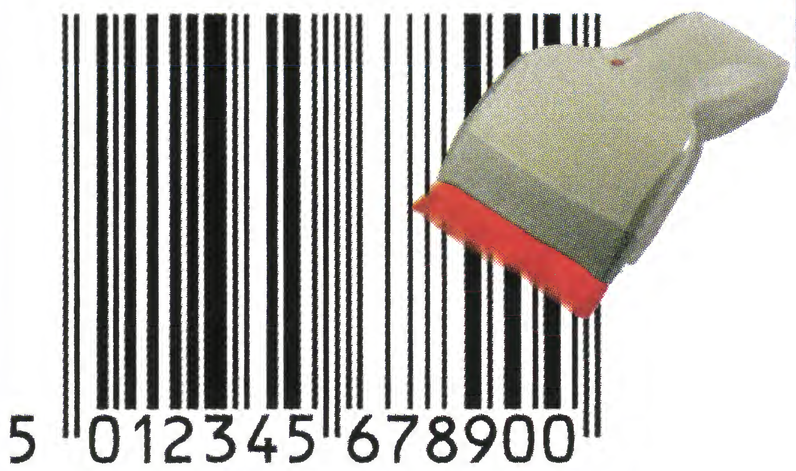

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